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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Duma Official on Chechnya's Effect on CIS Ties

LD1801200995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The Chechen conflict has seriously complicated perspectives of integration processes within the Commonwealth of Independent States, chairman of the State Duma's committee for CIS affairs and relations with compatriots Konstantin Zatulin told a news conference on Wednesday [18 January].

Zatulin focussed on the outlook for reinforcing Russia's relations with the rest of former Soviet republics.

"One can speak of integration seriously only with reference to Belarus," Zatulin said. He expressed satisfaction that the process of the bilateral Russian-Belarusian integration got under way once again. He termed creation of a bilateral customs association as "a certain positive symptom" and expressed hope that Kazakhstan will join the customs association.

In view of the Chechen conflict, certain CIS member-states attempt to distance themselves from Russia, he said. In particular, he mentioned Ukraine in this connection. Anti-Russian sentiments are on the rise in this country, he added.

The war in Chechnya will not stop after Groznyy is seized, the committee's chairman said.

In his opinion, Chechnya may play the part of Nagorno-Karabakh in Russia.

Zatulin criticized the executive branch of power for "incompetence" and "lack of skill" it displayed during the Chechen conflict. "Sorry politicians must be expelled from the government," he pointed out.

Report on Turkmen Gas Resumption Erroneous

954F0931A Donetsk VECHERNIY DONETSK in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Report under the rubric "From Rumors and Reliability": "One Must Be Patient About Gas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the evening the electronic press reported to millions of Ukrainian citizens what might have been pleasant news: After a month's interruption, Turkmen gas would be delivered to us once again. This news was immediately denied by the Donbasstransgaz Association. They said that the rumors were grossly exaggerated, to put it mildly. Well, a more concrete picture was painted by the director for deliveries and sales of gas of the Donetskoblgaz Production Association, A.A. Ryss, who granted a brief interview to NOCHNOY REPORTER.

"During a republic conference call conducted last night by Ukrgazprom we were told quite plainly that the possible resumption of deliveries of the blue fuel would most likely come at the end of February. And the cause of this was not just our significant nonpayments for hydrocarbon raw material. One must recall (unfortunately, with bitterness for us Ukrainians) that Turkmen gas dispatched to our country goes through Russia's pipelines, reinforcing its monopolistic position even more. Taking advantage of this situation, which is advantageous for them, the Russians are setting their own conditions for the Turkmens—which are, understandably, disadvantageous for the latter. In particular, they charge outrageous prices for transporting the blue fuel. Therefore official Ashgabat, whether it wants to or not, has to sell some of its gas to Russia—and at lower prices.

"And the Russians transfer it to us, to be sure, after greasing their own palms a little. Ukraine is on starvation rations. Using the language of money, this same Donbass is now failing to receive from Russia up to 40 percent of the blue fuel. So our situation remains critical."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Jan

LD1901090295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 19 Jan 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Russian press continues actively to comment on Chechnya events.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs a letter by Patriarch Alexii II of Moscow and all Russia.

The letter reads in particular: "We still feel that on the strength of information supplied through Russian mass media it is difficult to form an opinion about the true scope of hardships and sacrifices suffered by both Russian state armed forces, Chechen armed groups, and the civilian population in the region of military actions".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "the Chechen president's delegates have achieved, it seems, a certain success in their delicate mission in Moscow. The Chechen side, represented, as has already been apparently viewed by their interlocutors in Moscow, by quite plenipotentiary parliamentarians, is prepared to demonstrate, on the one hand, peaceful intentions and, on the other, the competence of their president.

"But even if the Chechen president himself will not be ble to issue an order to cease fire (the Russian Government's press service keeps maintaining that Dzhokhar Dudayev has lost control over the actions of field commanders), this will be dome for him by others who are aware that Groznyy will be seized sooner or later with larger or lesser casualties."

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KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) writes that "Dudayev's men have managed to draw a large number of ordinary honest Chechens into the conflict but it is by no means the latter who are the main opposing force. Our troops in Chechnya hit the interests of a powerful bandit organisation nurtured on and corrupted by petrodollars."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Salambek Khadzhiyev, chairman of the Chechen Government of Nationasl Rebirth, who believes that "very much will depend on the Chechens' level of wisdom, understanding, and on their readiness to ultimately to restore peace in their land".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA runs an interview with Vladimir Vorozhtsov, head of the Russian Interior Ministry's public relations centre, who said that "several tens of people have been detained by Russian Interior- Ministry personnel and police on the territory of the Chechen Republic during combat operations against unlawful armed groups. According to preliminary data, those people are on an all-Russia wanted list."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

"A war broke out in Chechnya at the end of last year mainly because backstage wire-pullers had come to realise that the process of integration (of the former Soviet Union—note by ITAR-TASS) begins and again resorted to efforts to heat up the situation along the arc of instability," the newspaper quoted Zyuganov as saying.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI interviewed Presidential Aide Anatoliy Korabelshchikov, who said that what is needed is "an efficient legal basis, primarily a federal law on general principles for the delimitation of the jurisdiction and mutual delegation of powers between federal and regional state power bodies.

"This will preclude the republics' desire to conclude bilateral treaties, adding a certain political meaning to them rather than organisaitonal, managerial or economic one.

"The elaboration of a state programme for national development and inter-ethnic cooperation among the peoples of the Russian Federation and of a state regional policy concept has been inadmissibly dragged out," the rpesidential aide said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that, according to preliminary data from the Glasnost Protection Foundation, 97 journalists were subjected to various kind of persecution in the area of the Chechnya conflict".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan who emphasised: "I am convinced that integration is the salutary road for everyone. Sooner or later we shall take it. The later we embark upon it, the more difficult it will be to make headway, for it would be heavily overgrown with a tangle of weeds."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on Wednesday's meeting of the State Duma.

"On Wednesday the State Duma shattered a 1995 federal budget, which it did not yet adopt, by voting for laws to raise the minimum wage and pension up to 54.100 roubles from February 1.

"Thus, the minimum wage will grow by more than 100 per cent while all pensions by 57 per cent. There is no money in the budget, just as in the pensions fund, for such an increase. But the deputies decided that it was essential to raise the population's living standards, being of the opinion that it is the job of the government to find sources to get money from".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that Russia's gross domestic amounted to 630,000,000 million roubles in 1994, or 15 per cent less compared with that in the previous year, and 39 per cent less than in the pre-reform year 1991.

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Yeltsin To Send Chubays To Attend Davos Economic Summit

LD1801123095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 (TASS)—Russian first deputy prime minister Anatoliy Chubays will represent Russia at the world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, this month as both the president and the premier will miss it because of the Chechen developments.

It was earlier announced that Boris Yeltsin will not go to Davos. On Wednesday Yeltsin said that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin will not go either.

He told reporters that he regretted that neither he nor the prime minister would attend the Davos forum in the end of January.

"We have an unusual situation in the country connected with the constitutional settlement in the Chechen republic. Therefore the president and the prime minister are very busy," Yeltsin said adding that Chubays will head the Russian delegation in Davos.

Kozyrev Says No Conditions Attached to Holding Summit

LD1901094295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Neither the Russian nor American side links the holding of a regular bilateral summit with any conditions. It may be held during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory day, to which Mr. Clinton has been invited, or separately, outside the anniversary celebrations, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists on board a plane by which he returned here from Geneva last night, after talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Consultations on European stability, military and political problems, and the internal situations in the two great powers became the first ministerial-level discussion of the forthcoming summit.

In accordance with the proposal voiced by President Boris Yeltsin at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summit in Budapest, the leaders of a whole number of states are to be invited to the victory day celebrations.

"The addressees will receive official invitations soon but President Clinton has already got it virtually," Kozyrev said.

The possibility of combining Mr. Clinton's stay in Russia to attend the victory day celebrations with a state visit is now under discussion tentatively as one of versions. It is the U.S. President's turn to pay a visit, the minister recalled.

"We discussed how this can be arranged best, because it is not so easy to hold Russian-U.S. summit talks in an atmosphere when tens of state leaders will be in Moscow," Kozyrev said, remarking that all the guests should have every care and attention.

During the meeting in Geneva, Kozyrev, as he told journalists, tentatively set out the considerations of the Russian side about Mr Clinton's sta e visit.

Kozyrev made it clear two versions are under consideration—arrangements for a summit meeting during the victory day celebrations or at some other time. As far as a summit agenda is concerned, everything seems to indicate that it will include items that were the focus of attention during the consultations in Geneva.

Kozyrev, Christopher Discuss Yeltsin-Clinton Summit

LD1801234895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1845 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 18 Jan—Organizational matters regarding a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton were discussed during the two days of talks between the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign affairs departments that ended in Geneva today. Andrey Kozyrev stated at the final press conference that he had on the instructions of the Russian president put some preliminary ideas about this to Warren Christopher.

This concerned in particular the holding of a possible summit "in the context of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II, when our two countries were allies," the Russian minister said, adding: "Really, we should now find ways and means to return to this condition of being allies." "I think that the secretary of state will report this to President Clinton and then our presidents will, either through us or directly, finally settle all aspects connected with their meeting this year."

In his turn, Christopher noted when he spoke to journalists on Tuesday that no dates or specific conditions for the summit had yet been decided. However, he said, "there is no doubt that we shall be planning a meeting in the relatively near future."

Discuss NATO

LD1801180495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)— Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. state Secretary Warren Christopher are discussing the document on relations between Russia and NATO until Moscow signs the Russia-NATO program for partnership among other issues in Geneva, a source close to Kozyrev told an Interfax correspondent.

He said the document, yet unnamed, was expected to be considered during the coming Russian-U.S. summit in Moscow.

The same source said the date for the summit had not yet been specified.

"The U.S. says it could be spring. We believe the summit could take place in late may," he added.

As it was earlier reported, Kozyrev said in Brussels at the end of 1994 that implementation of the Russia-NATO program for partnership would begin later. Kozyrev said this after NATO had decided to consider its possible extension to Central and East Europe in 1995.

The same source said the U.S. was concerned over delaying the beginning of the Russia-NATO program by Moscow. He said Russia made it clear that the "process will not be forced" until the ways for transforming NATO became clear.

A high-ranking diplomat accompanying Kozyrev told Interfax that the Russian and U.S. officials were negotiating in "a friendly and honest atmosphere." "The parties are honestly negotiating on Chechnya, on relations between Russia and NATO and on new structures for security in Europe," he added.

Viewed 'Wide Range' of Issues

LD1801191195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Aleksandr Gurnov] The second day of Andrey Kozyrev's stay in Geneva was devoted to working meetings with the U.S. secretary of state. After the ministers' late dinner yesterday, everyone wanted to know in the morning how much the Chechen subject would dominate in Geneva. This is what Kozyrev told "Vesti":

[Begin Kozyrev recording] One can already say with confidence now that our partnership is working. It has survived difficulties of all sort. The meeting gave me additional optimism that there will be no cold peace of any kind. [end recording]

[Gurnov] According to the protocol, the talks began at the premises of the U.S. mission. Later, they continued at our mission. As planned, a wide range of international affairs was discussed, including arms treaties and regional problems. Without going into details, one must say that this was the main result: The talks did not focus on the Chechen problem alone. Russia made it clear that—during a time that is most difficult and critical for us—it remains on the democratic path it has embarked upon and remains an equal partner among the world powers. This should be regarded as a success of Russian diplomacy.

The visit to Geneva has ended. The final news conference showed that difficulties remain. In particular, Russia has not yet signed the package of documents regarding its participation in partnership with NATO. Work, however, is under way.

Preparations are also under way for the meeting between Yeltsin and Clinton, which was announced on the day our diplomats left Moscow. The Americans said today it will take place at the end of spring.

Aleksandr Gurnov, for "Vesti" from Geneva.

Meeting Viewed as 'Successful'

LD1801211895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher, the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign political departments were held in Geneva today.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Aleksandr Gurnov] The meeting that has taken place can be described as successful if only because of the fact that Chechnya did not dominate the talks. I hope that Arbat, which leads from the Defense Ministry to the Foreign Ministry will no longer be called the "military Chechen road" [reference to the "military Georgian road" built by Russian soldiers during the Caucasian war in the 18th century].

[Kozyrev] In the last 20 years the U.S. presidents applied for the use of the Armed Forces five times. As for the National Guard and the security forces, these were used on a large-scale many more times. But it is the Armed Forces that were used to suppress disturbances and to restore legality in the United States itself. Was it a good thing? No, it was not. But when things cannot be done otherwise, when the Army has to be called in, in spite of the fact that they have the National Guard as well, which is being involved....

It is our misfortune. What does it mean an "internal affair?" An internal affair means we have to deal with it, we have to reach conclusions and to assess what is happening. But without panicking, realizing that it is our country and we do not have another. We do not have another Armed Forces. Therefore it is not the military Chechen road, it is a road of cooperation between the two presidential structures.

[Gurnov] Thank you. [end recording]

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Kozyrev Says Ties With U.S. 'Weathering the Difficulties'

MM1901094595 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 95 p 3

[ITAR-TASS/EFIR-DAYDZHEST report dated 18 January: "Will There Not Be a 'Cold Peace'? On A. Kozyrev's Meeting with W. Christopher"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There will be no "cold peace" in international relations, and the Russian-U.S. partnership is "working and weathering the difficulties." Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev made this statement to journalists in Geneva today.

Addressing representatives of the press before the start of the main round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the head of Russian diplomacy reported that the first "one-on-one" working meeting, held Tuesday evening, had produced a good result.

"I must say that yesterday's meeting created a good climate and preconditions," the minister pointed out. "We discussed a whole series of questions in a very frank, businesslike, and at the same time friendly way. I believe that it can already be confidently stated that our partnership is working and weathering difficulties of various kinds." Kozyrev voiced confidence that relations with the United States will not get bogged down on the subject of Chechnya.

"Yesterday's meeting," the minister declared, "inspired me with additional optimism as to the stability of our partnership. There will be no 'cold peace.'"

Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher today embarked on the main round of the two-day talks which they are holding on behalf of the Russian and U.S. presidents. The achievement of mutual understanding on key questions of partnership is intended to enable the sides to make progress in preparing for the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton planned for May.

An extensive list of issues has been submitted for discussion by the foreign policy department heads—European security, a Bosnian settlement, military-political topics. Special attention is being paid to the Geneva dialogue, since the head of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and the U.S. secretary of state are conducting it for the first time since the December forums of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and NATO, which revealed substantial differences in the approaches of a number of Western countries and Russia to the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev: Closer Cooperation With Aid Agencies Necessary

LD1801142995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Jan 17 (INTERFAX)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believes that it is necessary to closer coordinate efforts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international humanitarian organizations in order to relieve sufferings of civil population in Chechnya.

A source close to the minister reported to INTERFAX that Kozyrev expressed this thought during his meeting with the ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga on Tuesday evening in Geneva. The meeting was held "behind the closed doors" in the permanent mission of the Russian Federation under the UN in Geneva.

According to the source, the parties expressed concern "over the tragic consequences of the armed clashes ongoing in Chechnya."

Kozyrev reported that "federal bodies and public organizations of the Russian Federation do their best in order to relieve consequences of this tragedy for the civil population."

On the conclusion of this meeting Sommaruga declared to journalists that on behalf of the ICRC he called "on all parties involved in the Chechen conflict to observe principles of international humanitarian law." He explained that the matter, in particular, concerns the following: "to respect the civil population, to tactfully treat prisoners of war, to permit to the ICRC representatives to visit them, and to render assistance to the wounded."

The Chechen problem was also discussed in the course of the meeting "behind the closed doors" between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Hose Ayala Lasso.

In the course of this meeting Kozyrev, the source close to the minister reported, declared about readiness of the Russian Federation to hold a constructive dialogue on human rights with the UN High Commissioner."

Kozyrev: Russia May Enter Renovated NATO

LD1901071295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0657 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Russia may become a member of a renovated North Atlantic alliance in future, but the main thing is to start practical cooperation. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who returned on Thursday from Geneva where he held meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, expressed this point of view in an interview with journalists aboard the plane.

Replying to ITAR-TASS, he confirmed that neither Russian nor American sides precluded Russia's admission to NATO. As Europe is changing, "in actual fact, a new organisation" is shaping up in place of the North

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Atlantic alliance which was established to counter the Soviet Union. "It is this new NATO that we may enter," Kozyrev stressed.

The main thing is for "both sides, when making decisions, to take into account the interests of each other".

"We believed," the minister noted, "that a reply to these questions will be given by the 'Partnership for Peace' programme." But an additional element popped up now—an idea to expand the alliance, dominating the partnership programme, the minister said.

In Kozyrev's opinion, his Western colleagues now better understand reasons why Russia did not sign the partnership document at the December session of the NATO council. "We have managed to change the simplified approach," he noted.

Contacts continue, and "interesting ideas" were voiced in Geneva. According to Kozyrev, the task at the present stage is to realise understandings on cooperation in practice.

Official Says Chechnya Not a Pretext for NATO Enlargement

LD1801180395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Russia proceeds from the assumption that the Chechnya events should not lead to speeding up the NATO enlargement towards the east.

"The Chechnya events do not give the Central and Eastern European countries a pretext to fear for its safety because of an aggressive Russia," the first deputy head of the European cooperation department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Mark Entin, told Interfax Wednesday.

In his opinion, "the conflict in Chechnya only stresses that not external security, but aggressive nationalism, arms smuggling and narcomafia's colossal impact are on the agenda now."

Entin declined to comment on the statement by the leader of the parliamentary faction Russia's Choice, Yegor Gaydar, that the Chechnya conflict made him reconsider his negative attitude to the NATO enlargement with Central and East European countries. "This is Gaydar's personal opinion, which does not conform to Moscow's official position," he remarked.

Entin confirmed Russia's negative attitude to a swift NATO enlargement. "The Chechnya events have brought about no changes to our position," he stressed.

Defense Ministry Official Fails To Attend Chechen Talks

LD1801210795 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Vremye" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of the economy and procurator general of the Chechen Republic came to Nazran from Moscow today. In accordance with an understanding reached at their talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin yesterday, Taymaz Abubakarov and Usman Imayev were to begin negotiations on 18 January with the commanders of the military operation in Chechnya on ending the hostilities. However, representatives of the federal troops did not turn up in Nazran by the time arranged.

Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev and Ingush Vice President Boris Agapov were unable to locate General Rokhlin, who was to head the Defense Ministry delegation at the talks.

Yeltsin Meets GATT, WTO Chief Peter Sutherland

LD1901120195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1023 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin today received Peter Sutherland, director-general of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and director of WTO (World Trade Organization), reports the Russian president's press service.

During the meeting, the question of Russia joining GATT and WTO was discussed. Peter Sutherland stressed that Russia should be part of the world economic system, and that it is a priority task of the organization to ensure that it joins WTO, the press service reports.

Finnish Premier in Moscow as EU Messenger on Chechnya

LD1901112195 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1000 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Esko Aho has started his visit to Moscow, bearing with him the demand of the EU [European Union] for an end to fighting in Chechnya. Aho will also discuss Russia's large debt to Finland with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Jyrki Saarikoski was at the train station in Moscow.

[Saarikoski] For the first time in years, a top-level Finnish guest rumbled into Moscow by train. In Russia's biting weather, Prime Minister Aho was met by his colleague Viktor Chernomyrdin, who said that he himself had no time to use the train any more, but Aho praised the advantages of this means of transport:

[Begin Aho recording] You can eat there and perhaps drink a bit too (?if) you need to. [laughter] [end recording]

[Saarikoski] But after the pleasantries, Aho is facing tough subjects. As far as Finland is concerned, the main emphasis of the visit is on economic relations. Negotiations before the visit, which went on until the last

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minute, again dealt with the eternal problem—that is, the repayment of the Russian debt. What has been discussed is the repayment of the debt by means of deliveries of goods worth about 1 billion marks. The talk in practice has been about weapons, but no decisions have yet been made.

However, Chechnya is now rising above any other matters. Aho is the first prime minister of an EU country to arrive in Moscow since the crisis came to a head, and Finland has now been saddled with the task of being the EU's messenger. Listening to advice is not necessarily to Moscow's liking, however, for Chernomyrdin recently failed in his attempt to stop the clashes. The peace plan was brought to nothing both by the continued fighting in Groznyy and also by President Boris Yeltsin, who sharply rejected talks with the Chechen leader.

Chechnya Impact on Geneva Meeting Eyed

MM1801124195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Stanislav Kondrashov: "There Is No Getting Away From Chechnya Even in Geneva"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kozyrev has flown out to Geneva, where he will have a meeting 17-18 January with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The date of the meeting was agreed six weeks ago, as was its description—routine, regular, a meeting of partners "to check watches" and "take stock of the problems." The nature of such meetings was confirmed three-and-a-half months ago in Washington, when the two friends, Bill and Boris, held talks, demonstrating their closeness for the television cameras.

Alas, the watches are at variance with each other, and time is out of joint. First of all Bill Clinton suffered a crushing defeat at home at the congressional elections, when the Republicans occupied all the leading positions. And he is now forced to check his watch and his relations with his Moscow friend with one eye on their tough conservative leaders.

Then Boris Yeltsin declared at the European summit in Budapest that a "cold peace" would replace the "Cold War" if NATO, headed by the United States, includes in its ranks the former Soviet allies who have indeed not become Russia's friends. Hardly a week had gone by, the first week of last December, when the prophecied "cold peace" peculiarly materialized in the shape of the Chechen war—the first on Russia's territory, with Russians fighting Russians.

And so, will the Geneva meeting be a routine one? A diplomat who is actively involved in its preparations on the Russian side said: "The main thing to avoid is the idea that this is a meeting on the Chechen issue, a meeting that will revolve around Chechnya." He understands that it is extremely difficult to avoid such an impression. To be honest, it is simply impossible. How can there be a bureaucratic "stocktaking" of events in Bosnia, Nagornyy Karabakh, Haiti, or the Near East when there are fighting, smoking ruins, and uncollected corpses lying barbarously abandoned in downtown Groznyy—and on the television screens of the whole world. It is hard to dissuade the Americans from strong-arm methods in Bosnia and insist on peaceful methods when the reverse is being demonstrated in Chechnya.

Nevertheless, this is our first, although fragile, line of defense in Geneva—business as usual. Second line: "It is perfectly obvious that the Chechnya question will be broached," but from a particular angle. Not with the aim of inviting the Americans or anyone in the West to participate directly in settling it. This is Russia's internal matter. "The humanitarian and civil rights aspects of what is happening may be broached, but a political settlement is our affair." That is how the high-ranking diplomat defined the limits of international "intervention."

At the three Kozyrev-Christopher meetings scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday the Russian side would like to concentrate attention on amplifying the question not just of the expansion of NATO but also the evolution of this military-political organization within the broader and more important (for Moscow) framework of European stability and security.

Evidently this is the strongest redoubt standing in the path of the Chechnya issue's taking over the Geneva meeting. However, there cannot be any calm discussion or considered calculation tomorrow when the situation is changing so abruptly today. The brutal and ineffective methods of establishing "order" in Chechnya have undermined Moscow's entirely convincing arguments against including East Europe in NATO.

In Geneva, American diplomacy, particularly with the changed landscape in the U.S. Congress, will not be able to, and will not want to, avoid the "commotion" over Chechnya. Clinton and Christopher are still prepared to publicly support Yeltsin and Kozyrev in defending Russia's territorial integrity, upon which Dudayev's Chechnya has encroached. But, as we know, they are criticizing the large-scale war, with its many casualties, as a means of achieving this end.

Ahead of the meeting in Geneva the U.S. secretary of state has been saying straight out that the Chechen crisis is undermining Russia's international reputation and creating additional obstacles for Russian reform. He intends to urge Kozyrev to change Russian policy toward Chechnya, stressing that the problem is not the presence of Russian troops there, but what they are doing. According to Christopher, Russia should observe human rights and reduce the number of casualties of the conflict to a minimum.

Kozyrev is in a delicate position in that it seems that he shares this opinion but cannot emphasize it publicly and thereby violate the collective guarantee of the "power" structures in Moscow. Clearly on the assumptiuon that

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the Chechen expedition would not be so protracted or so bloody, he excluded himself from the "Russia's Choice" parliamentary faction, thereby demonstrating loyalty to the president, who has essentially become his only pillar of support now.

But the president, in his turn, is increasingly obviously being deprived of support among the people, society, and in political movements of the left and right. The terrible paradox which is narrowing the Russian diplomats' room for maneuver is that, in its assessment of the Chechen war, predominant public opinion in Russia is closer to Clinton than to Yeltsin. And not because the ordinary Russian citizen has become infected with pro-Americanism, of course, but because he will not actively accept the methods with which the Moscow leaders are defending Russian interests in Chechnya.

That is the "routine" subject matter with which Geneva will test our foreign minister.

Commentary Assesses U.S.-Japan-ROK KEDO Meeting

SK1901091095 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev from the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the United States, Japan, and the ROK have held negotiations in Washington, but differed about the signing of an agreement to establish the Korea Energy Development Organization [KEDO].

Aleksey Kondratyev, a commentator of our station, writes:

The Washington meeting discussed details on establishing the KEDO and ways to replace Pyongyang's atomic reactors with light-water reactors. It has not been reported that the three parties differed in the negotiations. However, we can easily assume the plan to supply light-water reactors worth $4 billion to the DPRK caused significant differences of opinion.

For example, the representative from Seoul insisted the two atomic reactors for Pyongyang be built using Seoul's technology. However, Washington resolutely opposed the proposal to add such conditions to the agreement on establishing the KEDO. The Americans eventually made concessions at Seoul's insistence, but presented its own conditions unacceptable to Seoul. Meanwhile, Pyongyang has rejected a Seoul-designed light-water reactor model.

Therefore, the KEDO has not been inaugurated. The parties merely agreed to hold the third round of working negotiations in Tokyo at a later date.

Will the KEDO be able to operate beginning mid-February, as the organizers of this organization have stated? They plan to have Russia, China, and other countries join this organization.

Meanwhile, U.S. experts have been holding negotiations in Pyongyang to find ways to reliably store approximately 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. If the sides agree on this issue, suspicions of Pyongyang's nuclear development will disappear (?completely).

However, such a development will not affect the U.S. position on its relations with Pyongyang. Washington still assumes a biased position on ensuring regional security. Therefore, U.S. Defense Department officials have not said anything about reducing the approximately 40,000 troops in South Korea.

In short, the political and military situation on the Korean peninsula has begun to change fundamentally. The threat of a military confrontation, which may have resulted in serious armed conflicts, has prevailed continuously on the Korean peninsula. To quickly end this situation, relations between North and South Korea must improve significantly on the Korean peninsula.

Chubays To Tell Davos: No Changes 'Whatsoever' in Policy

LD1801145295 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Anatoliy Chubays, first vice prime minister, said today following a meeting with Russian President Yeltsin that the president instructed him to tell the World Economic Forum in Davos on his behalf that there would be no changes whatsoever in government policy as a whole, and that any changes in Russia's privatization policy, in particular, were out of the question. [passage omitted]

Russia, Kazakhstan Sign Information Protection Agreement

MM1801170195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 3

[Russian Gostekhkomissiya [exact expansion unknown] press center report: "Single Information Area Being Created"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been signed between the Russian Federation Government and the Republic of Kazakhstan Government on cooperation in the field of information protection.

The agreement has defined a number of fundamental principles for cooperation between the states in the information sphere: the creation of a single legal basis, the use of unified normative and methodological support, the organization of cooperation in the field of training cadres in this sphere, and the joint use of technical facilities.

The signing of this agreement attests to the development of integration processes in an important sphere of

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human activity like the information sphere and creates the foundation for forming a single information area and ensuring the protection of the information resources of the CIS as a whole and of each individual citizen.

Government Decree on Licensing Commercial Activities Examined

954K0454A Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by Viktor Ivanov: "Licensing Business in Russia: The State Promises To Loosen Control of the Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **As is clear from the government decree "On the Licensing of Certain Kinds of Activity," urgently signed on the eve of the New Year holidays, uniform regulations for licensing business in Russia have been introduced for the first time. The reason for this step taken by the authorities is quite clear—the time has come to fulfill a promise made to international financial organizations.**

As early as August of last year, when the Russian Government sent a special memorandum on economic policy to international financial organizations, it became clear that the licensing problem had become one of the stumbling blocks in relations between Russia and the West. Western creditors quite reasonably considered the licensing of business in Russia as nothing more than an attempt to enhance state control over the economy, and demanded that this process be set within a rigid framework. The government promised to do so, and this was stipulated in a memorandum. However, the government did not hasten to pass a special decree introducing restrictions in licensing—each department attempted to assert its own rights in using this method of control over business. The decree appeared immediately prior to the New Year, when further delays became simply impossible—the West would think Russia had no intention of fulfilling its obligations in 1995. In the meantime, it is especially important for Russia right now to unswervingly fulfill its promises—the state budget for this year depends entirely on the receipt of additional foreign credits.

In the formal sense, the new decree is absolutely radical in nature. The state acknowledges for the first time that the licensing of entrepreneurial activity must be limited, and is to be used only in instances where it is necessary to protect "vitally important interests of identity, society, and the state." Moreover, the text of the document itself cites an exhaustive listing of kinds of entrepreneurial activity which may be licensed. The licensing of all other spheres of business activity is prohibited in concept. Finally, the decree emphasizes in every possible way that licensing policy must be uniform throughout Russia. Specifically, standard licensing forms are to be used and payment for a license must be made to the appropriate budgets. In this manner, the framers of the document were clearly attempting to emphasize a repudiation of the departmental arbitrariness in licensing so traditional in Russia.

Thus, the decree fully meets the demands of its main objective—to declare before the West its rejection of total state control over the economy. We should not overestimate its practical significance, however. First and foremost, the document's listing of spheres of business authorized for licensing is quite broad—their number reaches 90 in the initial version, while the final text increases it to almost 100, under pressure from departments and local authorities. In other words, the authorities will be able to continue licensing the most profitable kinds of activity entirely legally. In addition, it should be kept in mind that in and of itself, the new decree applies only to those kinds of activity for which licensing is effected by the government. The president therefore fully retains the capability of introducing licensing in specific instances through his edicts. This applies in particular to business on the securities market.

From the New Listing of Kinds of Activity To Be Licensed:

—Storage of oil and gas and their refining products

—Freight transportation

—Commercial fishing

—Leasing company activity

—Paid legal services

—Activity of specialized investment funds

—Mandatory medical insurance

—International tourist activity

—Production and wholesale marketing of alcoholic beverages

—Activity of commodity exchanges

—Activity of nonstate pension funds

—Recycling of industrial waste products

—Medical and pharmaceutical activity

—Lotteries, gambling machines, and gambling establishments

—Pawnshop activity

—Buy-up of jewelry items from the populace

—Paid job-placement services

—Realtor activity

—Public showings of films and other video presentations

—Maintenance of motor vehicle refueling stations

—Retail trade in cargo vehicles and buses

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Political Issues

Moscow Says Dudayev Representatives Lack Authority

LD1801202395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1922 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No Dateline as received]

ANNOUNCEMENT No.155

By the press service of the Russian Federation

Dated 18 January 1995

On behalf of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, a telephoned telegram, worded as follows, was sent to Dudayev's representatives T.Abubakarov and U.Imayev on 18 January:

"In accordance with the results of the conversation between V.Chernomyrdin and T.Abubakarov and U.Imayev which took place in Moscow on 17 January 1995, you stated that Dudayev was in full control of the field commanders in Groznyy and was ready to ensure a cessation of the bloodshed.

"On the instructions of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Generals Rokhlin and Babichev were selected by the military command for contacts with a view to a cease-fire, and the field commanders were to make contact with them directly in Groznyy.

"No proposal for a meeting in Nazran was discussed. The fact that Dudayev's representatives are still in Nazran and have made no effort in Groznyy as regards a cessation of hostilities confirms our fears that they have absolutely no control over the field commanders and are not directing the situation, or they are engaged in a disreputable political game.

"We also regard it as being extremely dangerous to involve the Republic of Ingushetia and its leadership in the escalation of the military crisis in the Chechen Republic.

"P.P. [on behalf of] the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

[Signed] S. Shakhray

V. Mikhaylov [no closing quotes as received]

Yeltsin Urges Calm, Says Chechnya To Be Restored

LD1801174295 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yeltsin] "The government has and should be developing its own views and standing by them. One can express one's own private opinions. But to express them on an official level—this is not done."

[Correspondent Irina Zaytseva] The president said that he and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin devote practically all their time to solving the problem of constitutional settlement in the Chechen Republic. Unfortunately, because of this situation neither the president nor the head of the government can attend the world economic forum in Davos. The Russian delegation will be led by Anatoliy Chubays.

[Yeltsin] "Further, we are trying to ensure that the Chechen Government will be established by legitimate means, and I mean the Chechen Government. Of course, we cannot exclude Russians because we also have a Russian population there in the Chechen Republic. In other words, this should be done legitimately."

[Zaytseva] "Boris Yeltsin said that the government undoubtedly understands that the Chechen people will have difficulties in returning to normal life."

[Yeltsin] "The Chechen Republic will be restored with our help and will embark on the normal and peaceful course as part of the Russian Federation."

[Zaytseva] The president thanked journalists and assured them:

[Yeltsin] "So, do not worry. Everything regarding the Chechen question will be settled, all will be calm and normal. Please do not get excessively agitated."

General Calls For More Funds for Chechen Operation

LD1801163195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Additional funding for the efforts to restore constitutional order in Chechnya should be provided by the government, a Russian top military official said.

Colonel-General Vasiliy Vorobyov, head of the defence ministry's budget and finance department, said on Wednesday [18 January] that the operation in Chechnya has necessitated additional expenditures to provide the soldiers and officers involved with social welfare benefits and compensations.

He pointed out that a government resolution adopted in December likens the efforts to ensure Russia's national security and territorial integrity in Chechnya and adjacent regions to frontline operations.

The soldiers and officers fighting in Chechnya are paid double salaries. In addition, one month in Chechnya will be considered as three while determining their length of service, he said.

In addition, funds will be needed to pay compensations to the wounded and the families of those who have been killed. The exact sum has not been determined yet, but it

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will be announced immediately after the conflict has been settled, Vorobyov said.

However, he stressed that the defence ministry's budget cannot afford to bear all these expenses alone and urged the government to provide additional funding.

Shumeyko 'Does Not Rule Out' State of Emergency

LD1801170095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the Russian parliament's upper house, does not rule out the possiblity that during today's debates over the Chechen crisis in the council of federation, lawmakers will vote to impose a state of emergency upon the Chechen republic.

A state of emergency means the establishement of "a special legal regime which is to help restore order by using interior troops only, without resorting to heavy weapons", the speaker told reporters.

The process to begin in Chechnya "should be channelled into legal boundaries from the very outset", Shumeyko emphasised.

Satarov Denies Yeltsin To Meet With Zhirinovskiy

LD1901104995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS news analyst Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—At the beginning of February, President Boris Yeltsin is planning to hold a Presidential Council meeting at which the text of an annual presidential message to the Federal Assembly will be discussed.

A meeting between the president and Liberal Democratic Party Leader [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the LDPR parliamentary group, rumours about which have filtered into the press, is not planned so far, Presidential Aide Georgiy Satarov told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

It must be recalled that earlier this month eight members of the Presidential Council sent a message to Boris Yeltsin in a request for a meeting. Through his announcement about the priorities of consultations planned by the president, Satarov made it clear which of them take priority and are more preferable to Boris Yeltsin.

Muscovites Polled on Chechnya, Leaders' Popularity

MM1901113195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Sociological Service under the rubric "Events Discussed and Disputed Today": "Events in Chechnya: Your Evaluations? The Staggering Results of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's Sociological Poll"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How would you react to the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya?

Positively:	54 percent
Negatively:	27 percent
Hard To Say:	19 percent

How has the Chechen crisis affected politicians' popularity?

	Approve	Disapprove	Undecided
	(in percent)		
Boris Yeltsin	8	63	29
Viktor Yerin	3	36	61
Pavel Grachev	3	70	27
Viktor Chernomyrdin	9	31	60
Ivan Rybkin	10	20	70
Sergey Stepashin	3	26	71
Andrey Kozyrev	9	26	65
Vladimir Shumeyko	7	28	65
Yegor Gaydar	17	31	52
Vladimir Zhirinovskiy	3	43	54
Sergey Kovalev	28	21	51

Events in Chechnya are a cause of anxiety to literally everyone today. These are the conclusions that can be drawn from the results of the latest poll conducted by us in Moscow 11-12 January (a representative sample of over 1,000 people were questioned).

Fifty-six percent of Muscovites consider this topic their number one problem; 43 percent, despite the difficulties of their own lives, also try to keep up with the Chechen events. And only 2 percent of respondents—mainly young people with only secondary education—confessed to us that this topic does not concern them at all.

The events in Chechnya have enabled Muscovites to define their attitude to the current political leaders more clearly. Only 3 percent of Muscovites approve of the actions of the current power ministers—V. Yerin, S. Stepashin, and P. Grachev. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is supported mainly by men. On the other hand he is condemned by 70 percent of Muscovites. Surprisingly, none of the respondents named Nikolay Yegorov, Russian minister of nationalities affairs, although he is one of the key figures in the Chechnya conflict.

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On the basis of the poll it is possible to single out the five most popular politicians in Moscow today, whose position regarding the military conflict is most understandable to people. They are B. Yeltsin, P. Grachev, S. Kovalev, Ye. Gaydar, and V. Zhirinovskiy. It should be clarified here that a politician's popularity is measured from the votes of his supporters and his critics alike. It is an interesting fact that the president is supported on the Chechnya question mainly by elderly people, and Sergey Kovalev primarily by people with higher education. Yegor Gaydar and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy are mainly supported by young people (up to 25 percent) and men with higher education. The attitude of Muscovites to Premier Chernomyrdin is curious: His actions are approved by 9 percent of respondents, largely men with secondary education and elderly people. Sixty percent of Muscovites were wholly undecided in their attitude to the head of the government. Seven out of 10 respondents were also undecided over the actions of State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. He is supported by only one in 10 (largely people with secondary education, and including almost no young people).

Muscovites' assessment of Sergey Kovalev's activity also proved a surprise. Fifty-one percent of respondents were undecided in their attitude to his peacemaking activity. Most likely this is connected with the fact that he has appeared on the political horizon comparatively recently, but perhaps people did not understand his appeals to the West.

In the previous poll (see KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for 22 December 1994) 60 percent of Muscovites replied to the question: What do you fear most in connection with the Chechnya conflict? Deaths among our soldiers. This time as many as 73 percent expressed their concern for the lives of Russian servicemen.

Thirty-two percent of respondents fear casualties among Chechnya's civilian population (last time the figure was 22 percent).

It is worth focusing on another fact: Twenty percent of respondents stated that what they feared most of all was the escalation of the conflict in Chechnya into civil war. And since this option was not included on the form, making it what sociologists call a free answer and so rate several times higher, it can be boldly asserted that half of Muscovites today fear civil war as a direct result of the Chechnya events.

They also fear:

an upsurge in inflation and a sharp deterioration in living standards—41 percent;

terrorist acts in Moscow and across Russia—29 percent;

a sharp escalation of nationalist movements in other regions of Russia and the CIS countries—25 percent;

a decline in the prestige of the Army and of Russia as a whole, both in the eyes of Russians and of the world community—19 percent;

an economic and political blockade of Russia by the West—11 percent.

Forty-six percent see the Russian Army's protracted combat operations in Chechnya as due to a lack of professionalism in the military command, and 33 percent of respondents stated that the protraction of the combat operations in Chechnya is clearly to the benefit of certain people. Twenty-three percent gave as the cause the poor combat capability of the Russian Army. 15 percent are convinced of the moral and military superiority of the Chechen formations, and 11 percent think that by protracting the conflict our military is seeking to avoid heavy casualties among the civilian population.

According to the data obtained, more than half of respondents (54 percent) would approve the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechen territory, not considering this a sign of Russian weakness or defeat. Twenty-seven percent—mainly middle-aged men and people over 60—would view this extremely negatively.

A logic emerges: A tough line on the continuation of the war is held today by those who condemn Defense Minister P. Grachev, but who are most afraid of an undermining of the Army's prestige. These are mainly middle-aged men.

So the Russian people today have no confidence in politicians. But what is their attitude to the fourth estate—the press? To our question: "Which newspaper covering the events in Chechnya do you most trust today?" respondents replied:

- MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS—28 percent
- KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA—12 percent
- IZVESTIYA—8 percent
- ARGUMENTY I FAKTY—6 percent
- PRAVDA—3 percent
- VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA—2 percent
- TRUD, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA—1 percent

Of the electronic mass media covering the events in Chechnya the NTV program enjoys the most trust among Muscovites, at 48 percent.

The approval rating of the of the remaining TV programs breaks down as follows: RTV—20 percent, "Ostankino"—18 percent, "2X2"—6 percent, and TV-6—6 percent.

Ten percent of respondents do not trust any of the mass media covering the events in Chechnya.

But here is the paradox—on 31 December only 28 percent of Muscovites watched the New Year celebration program on NTV with A. Pugacheva, whereas 43 percent watched the unpopular president on the equally unpopular "Ostankino."

Half of them, the poll shows, were elderly people accustomed to seeing in the New Year in the traditional way to the chiming of the clock and with the indispensable greetings message from the "top man." The other half

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are those who today condemn B. Yeltsin most robustly and deny him their confidence—mainly middle-aged people with higher education. They listened to the president's speeches, trying to catch between the smooth phrases the general tone of the forthcoming year: Peace? War?

Young people, on the other hand, listened serenely to the showbiz star, toasting love with a glass of champagne.

In the course of this poll our sociologists encountered a situation for the first time in which people asked us questions, rather than our asking them.

Why were people being killed on Christmas Eve?

Why in a country preparing to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Victory over fascism is there footage on our screens looking like a chronicle of the Great Patriotic War every night of the week?

Why, while talking of human rights, do we deprive people of their main right—to life?

Why, having razed Groznyy to the ground, are we planning to invest trillions to rebuild it?

Why, having such a superiority in combat strength and technology, are our elite units being defeated by bunches of "bandits"?

People hardly expected us to reply. But actually, shouldn't someone reply?

Yeltsin Stresses 'Immutabilty' of Reforms

MK1901095795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Yeltsin Does Not Intend To Change Course. The Goskomimushchestvo Chairman Might Have To Go"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is the second week that emissaries from near and distant parts of Russia have been coming to the Kremlin. To judge from the sparse official reports and also from information from other informed sources, at these meetings with leaders of Russia's republics, krays, and oblasts Yeltsin is discussing two key problems: the situation in Chechnya and the local leaders' opinion of the course of the reforms, since he is to deliver the annual message to the Federal Assembly 9 February.

As regards the Kremlin's tactics in respect of Chechnya, today competent sources are maintaining with greater certainty than before that the war will be brought to a logical end and that the contacts with Dudayev's representatives have the sole aim of avoiding further protracted bloodshed. The process of restoring constitutional order will be conducted according to the scheme outlined earlier: the creation of an interim administration or government of the transitional period and contacts with Chechen leaders and forces not involved in terror. The president does not feel the weakness of his positions, despite the continuing criticism of him.

Yeltsin's decision not to react to the senators' demand that he attend a hearing on the Chechen crisis may also probably be considered evidence of his firm stance. The president's entourage believes that even in a different situation Yeltsin ought not to set a precedent of appearing in the Federal Assembly in connection with specific problems that arise, still less in the present situation, when he is being instructed to appear almost in an ultimatum-like manner. All the necessary explanations will be set out in the annual message to parliament 9 February.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent managed to ascertain that the draft of this document was discussed 17 January at a meeting between B. Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin. Its chief thrust is that the president will demonstrate the immutability of the policy of continuing the reforms, particularly in the matter of privatization. It has been learned that the president and the premier spoke in very harsh tones of the activity of V. Polevanov, the present leader of the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property]. Yeltsin does not intend to permit any backtracking in the matter of privatization. According to one version, for Polevanov this means a serious phone call; according to another, the premier may soon propose that he finds other work, i.e. A. Chubays' positions in the government are strengthening.

In addition, the president's message should be expected to criticize the Federal Assembly and the government. The criticism will be based on the premise that hardly any of the points in the president's previous message were fulfilled over the past year and that parliament, instead of using its control functions in this area and instead of lawmaking, is becoming increasingly politicized—which runs counter to the well-known principle of the separation of powers. Interlocutors have also reported that many leaders of the Russian regions expressed to the president a similar opinion on this.

Korzhakov Interviewed on Security Service, Politics

954F0938A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 3, Jan 95 p 3

[Interview with General Aleksandr Korzhakov, chief of the Russian Presidential Security Service, by ARGUMENTY I FAKTY correspondent Andrey Uglanov; date not given: "Aleksandr Korzhakov: 'I Was Never Involved in Politics'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [begin italics]Lately the name of General Aleksandr Korzhakov, chief of the Russian president's Security Service, is being mentioned increasingly more often in the press and on television. It has come to the point where he was ranked fifth on the list of the most influential figures in the country. Hence the

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conclusion that is being drawn: With such a disposition of forces, we are turning into a police state.

An ARGUMENTY I FAKTY correspondent met with A. Korzhakov in the Kremlin.

[Uglanov] Aleksandr Vasilyevich, there is a lot, and of different nature, being said about you lately. Including calling you the true master of the Kremlin after the president. Are you pleased to hear this?

[Korzhakov] It is true—about a lot, and of a different nature: that I was planning to kill Yuriy Vlasov; that I arrested Yakubovskiy; that I run the state, appoint ministers, have divisions under my command, am planning to "absorb" the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], and a lot of other nonsense presented in apparently profound form. Even my family was not left out of it: My daughter is being said to be married to General Barsukov's son, and another allegedly is studying abroad. And just look at the campaign that unfolded around one of the memos to the prime minister, which presents doubts regarding the expediency of decisions made on a very difficult and multifaceted problem—a memo, which in form of address and in substance is natural for the head of an independent state body.

I can name the date when this "tidal wave" began—2 December of last year, when our personnel neutralized the Most Group security personnel, who illegally had in their possession weapons, militia officer ID's, and special scanners for listening to special services communications. Does not this "tidal wave" remind you of a well-orchestrated attack? All of this is coming from the people in the "goose" ["gusinyy": referring to V. Gusinskiy—ed.] flock and high-ranking officials connected with it. By the way, goose hunting is my old hobby.

Let us leave to the authors' conscience the arrogance and unceremoniousness of their allegations. My notion of ethics in my relations with the Russian president does not permit me to discuss questions outside the boundaries of the service's activities. In many publications, however, as well as in your question, the author's interest is aimed at other problems that do not exist in real life. The commotion surrounding my name was created artificially, and it does not reflect the public's true interest in me as a person.

[Uglanov] A number of political analysts count you among the leaders of the "party of war." There is also talk that launching a military action against D. Dudayev in Chechnya was your initiative.

[Korzhakov] A "party of war," you say? War against whom? If against crime, corruption, illegal armed formations—then yes, I am a supporter of this party and will fight this evil uncompromisingly. As to the origins of the decision on military action in Chechnya, I believe that your question is misplaced—ask the president's advisers, the head of his administration, the former deputy head of the FCS who has spent so much time in this region, and members of the Security Council—those whose job responsibility includes working out proposals on this issue.

The so-called "analysts" and those who are behind them would like very much to drag me into a political discussion, to declare me a politician, and somewhere close to the top of the list at that. I will tell you right away, though, that I have never been involved in politics, and definitely do not consider myself a professional politician. Although I can tell you with certainty that this talk is a consequence of the struggle against corruption we have started. Many big-league crooks are very much afraid of it and are trying for all it is worth to present themselves as victims of political persecution—on my part in particular. This is nonsense. My legal status is very clearly defined: I am a state employee implementing decisions made by politicians. [passage omitted]

[Uglanov] How are the responsibilities in protecting national security divided in this case between your service, the FCS, and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]?

[Korzhakov] Each of the bodies you mentioned has its own sphere of activities, clearly defined by relevant normative acts. Therefore, there cannot be any arbitrariness, willful preemption of particular functions. We are living through a difficult period of transition. The entire country is going through this, including its special services. They also go through a transformation today. But national security does not wait until we sort out all our unsolved problems. There are problems that require right now the efforts of all bodies tasked with maintaining security—the top priority among them is organized crime, an unalienable part of which is corruption. It may appear that these issues are outside of the commonly interpreted purpose of our service. You do not find it surprising, though, that the FCS—whose task is counterintelligence—is involved in these matters, do you?

I would like to point out that unfortunately there are frank attempts to set special services at loggerheads, to destabilize them by rumors about reorganizations, change of subordination, and so on. This does tremendous harm to our common business. Special services have one goal—to ensure national security. And from the unity of purpose it follows that there cannot be any competition or confrontation. We can only talk about coordination and interaction within the lines of our activities. I will add that we have interagency agreements with all special services, which help to carry out such interaction and increase overall productivity.

[Uglanov] Apparently all these activities will be coordinated by the president's national security adviser Yuriy Baturin?

[Korzhakov] This is a matter to be decided by the president of the country. I want to point out, however, that in the current, very difficult, conditions we do indeed need not only a sensible decentralization of special services but also an efficient coordination of their activities.

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The way I see it, right now such a coordinating center is not firmly established: Sometimes the Security Council tries to play this role, sometimes the president's national security adviser, and quite frequently no one.

Undoubtedly, clarity is needed in this important matter, and I cannot rule out the possibility of a special body being created to coordinate special services' activities, capable of combining their efforts and providing collective decisionmaking. The question of creating such a body is becoming quite topical, because some financial-industrial groups of criminal colorations already can afford to buy a mercenary official, including in the highest ranks, including in special services, and attempt to dictate, impose their will through such people. Anticipating potential rumors, I want to make clear at the outset that I have no designs for heading this body.

[Uglanov] Let us go back to the question of corruption. How does it look from the Kremlin? Did it really reach the top echelons of power? There is talk that our bureaucrats with monthly salaries of $150-200 build themselves million-dollar mansions in West Europe. And are not afraid of anyone, including you.

[Korzhakov] I sense bitter reproach in your words. Corruption has not yet became the octopus corroding the state apparatus the way we know from Italian or other movies. But metastases already are spreading. And it could not happen otherwise in the environment of market relations that penetrate every pore of our life. And how difficult it is to combat it we also know from the same movies. Read the newspapers that openly name "crime bosses" and crime kingpins. But then ask: Why are they not in prison? The answer is always the same: It is not enough to know that someone is stealing—you need evidence to prove it. The same with corruption. Yes, some officials now have mansions, real estate, including abroad. But all of this is done surreptitiously, through proxies. These facts are being investigated.

Corruption in the bodies of authority and administration has a destructive impact on the way of life, legal conscience, legality, social protection of citizens; it results in a decline of confidence in Russian authorities inside the country and abroad, in the reforms being implemented by the president. It may nullify the effectiveness of all kinds of government programs. [passage omitted]

The fight against corruption, including in the highest echelons of power, is being waged, and we take part in it. It is not as effective as we would like it to be—the result of lack of experience. Some of our active actions highlighted "dependents" of criminal commercial structures, who rallied not quite altruistically in defense of the aforementioned Most Group and are scaring the public with a specter of a "police state." I mean their connections, among other things, in the top leadership of special services, and those "high-ranking Kremlin sources" that guided the pen of IZVESTIYA journalists, and others. In a police state, police rule; here criminals sometimes try to direct individual policemen and politicians, as well as the press. "Police state" has nothing to do with it—we have to establish order in our house. The threat to society comes not from the Security Service—it comes from those who unceremoniously and brazenly carry weapons in the center of Moscow under the nose of the Moscow mayoralty; from the financial mafia, which is "nurturing a new generation of politicians," striving to create a "pocket government"; from those who bribe state officials in pursuit of their mercenary goals to the detriment of the interests of the motherland. We will not stop fighting them.

So you say: They are not afraid? And I think this is not quite so. Otherwise, why would they need to organize an all-out, purposeful, and costly campaign to discredit Korzhakov and the service he heads?

[Uglanov] And last. You get a lot of information from the regions. Do you feel that the country is still one whole, or are the cracks visible?

[Korzhakov] The cracks are visible among that part of the unstable liberals who one-sidedly and falsely interpret the idea of human rights protection; who once again proved their inability to understand the need for decisive action in critical situations, the need to consolidate the nation during any time of trial. And the idea that Russia is about to perish, that the country is disintegrating, and so on, are evidence either of spiritual blindness, weakness, lack of faith, and despondency, or of malicious intent to sow panic among Russians. The country is living its difficult life—with its hardships, unemployment, the economy that is attempting to get on its feet, and, unfortunately, "killed in battle" notices for soldiers who have honestly fulfilled their military duty to protect the motherland from being split apart. And with the hope for a better future, which our Russia deserves.

[Uglanov] Thank you for detailed answers. To be honest, knowing your dislike for journalists we did not count on it.

[Korzhakov] I never said that I dislike journalists. I said something else—that I am chronically short of time for such activities.

Yeltsin Appoints New FCS Deputy Director

LD1801231395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2005 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 17 January signed an edict appointing Lieutenant General Anatoliy Vasilyevich Trofimov to the post of deputy director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] of the Russian Federation and head of the service's directorate for the city of Moscow and Moscow Oblast.

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Military Issues

Decision on Deputy Defense Ministers Impending

LD1801183595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1726 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan—The number of deputy defense minister posts has been reduced from eight to five in accordance with the new organization and staff structure of the Defense Ministry signed by the Russian president and implemented beginning 1 January of this year. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from informed sources in the Russian Defense Ministry.

According to the information from these sources, a decision on the use of deputy Defense Ministers Boris Gromov, Valeriy Mironov, and Georgiy Kondratyev in the service of the state will be made in the near future.

According to information available this evening, the Defense Ministry does not have any information about the possible resignations of the aforementioned deputies of Pavel Grachev. The president alone can make the decision to dismiss them.

Controversy Continues Over Dissenting Generals

LD1901000595 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2052 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Nota Bene" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Ever since it became known this past Saturday [14 January] that the Russian Procuracy General had questioned five high-ranking military officers in connection with, as it was put, their refusal to carry out the order regarding the military operation in Chechnya, our program has tried to find out both the whereabouts of these officers and the essence of the official complaints against them. For that matter, the latter were precisely spelled out back on Monday.

[Acting Russian Procurator General Aleksey Ilyushenko] "A general is, it would seem, a job just like, say, an engineer or any other speciality."

[Correspondent Igor Gritsenko] As regards the position of the military officers themselves—one of whom is Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander in chief of Russia's ground forces—today we made an attempt to contact him in the cardiological unit of the "Mandryk" central military clinical hospital. However, neither the duty officer nor head of the hospital Col. Vladimir Simonenko permitted us to go into the ward to see the general. Through his secretary, Simonenko told us that Vorobyev is ill, even though we know reliably that he is already feeling well.

[Vladimir Kovalevskiy, president of the 'Petr Grigorenko' Fund "For the honor and dignity of officers"] "I chatted with him yesterday and today. Yesterday they took a cardiogram. Such things, such slaps in the face, they pass without a trace, you see. After all, he is the deputy commander in chief of the ground forces, not a regimental commander."

[Gritsenko] This evening Vorobyev was visited by Col. Gen. Ivan Chizh, chief of the chief medical directorate of the Russian Defense Ministry. After their conversation, Vorobyev did not come to see us at the central check point, as previously planned. Vorobyev set out his position in today's issue of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, I quote: Soldiers and officers needed at least a two- month long special training prior to the fighting

Today, RIA-NOVOSTI, citing an unnamed source, also reported that last Saturday a presidential edict was signed on the removal of generals Boris Gromov, Georgiy Kondratyev, and Valeriy Mironov from their posts as deputy defense ministers. By the same edict, RIA-NOVOSTI reports, Col. Gen. Vorobyev was also removed from his post.

Generals Urge Dudayev's Envoys To Come to Groznyy

LD1901113295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Russian Army Generals Lev Rokhlin and Ivan Babichev, who are in command of the operation in Groznyy, would not leave for the Ingush capital of Nazran to meet the envoys of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev as the latter insisted. Instead, the generals told them to come to Groznyy for talks "on the disarmament of illegal armed units", according to the Russian Counterintelligence Service.

Chechen Economics Minister Taymaz Abubakarov and Prosecutor General Usman Imayev, who said that a ceasefire agreement was agreed in principle at their meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow, arrived in Nazran and said that Rokhlin and Babichev should also come there for talks, the press centre of the Federal Counterintelligence Service told TASS on Thursday, qualifying the envoys' request as "an absurd demand".

Federal Assembly

Deputy: Yeltsin Can Be Impeached Over Chechnya Actions

LD1901094995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Committee for Constitutional Legislature of the Federation Council said on Thursday there were no legal grounds for sending the Armed Forces to Chechnya and qualified it as a "crime".

Senator Yelena Mizulina, who read out the conclusion of the committee to the upper chamber, said the Federation Council can raise the issue of impeaching President Boris Yeltsin for abuse of his powers and initiate the dismissal of the government.

"The Federation Council can impeach the president of Russia on the basis of a submission from the State Duma and in connection with his (president's) abuse of constitutional powers", said Mizulina, who is a deputy chairwoman of the committee.

"The use of Russian Armed Forces on the territory of Chechnya was illegal. The fact of using the Armed Forces is outside the limits of Part One of Article 93 of the Constitution and can be qualified as a crime", she said quoting the conclusion of the committee.

Mizulina added that for the same reasons the Federation Council can raise the issue of the Government resignation.

Besides, she said the issue of no-confidence in the chamber's speaker Vladimir Shumeyko can be also raised because of his work in the Security Council which o'kayed the use of force in Chechnya.

Part One of Article 93 says that "The president of the Russian Federation can be impeached by the Federation Council only on the basis of charges of treason or another grave crime advanced by the State Duma and confirmed by a conclusion of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on the presence of signs of a crime in actions of the president of the Russian Federation and by a conclusion of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation confirming that the rules of advancing the charges were observed".

Shumeyko: Use of Untrained Conscripts Banned in Chechnya

LD1901094495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Defence Ministry "categorically banned" the use in the Chechen fighting of conscripts who had served less than six months in the army, Speaker of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko told his chamber on Thursday quoting Russian Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

Shumeyko said it is necessary to investigate "every fact of the use of untrained conscripts (in Chechnya) and punish those responsible" for sending them to the conflict area.

Duma Dismisses Deputy Speaker Appointed Justice Minister

LD1801173895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The Russian State Duma relieved Valentin Kovalev of his duties of a deputy chairman on Wednesday after he was appointed the justice minister. Kovalev has forwaded a corresponding request to Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin himself.

Kovalev was elected deputy speaker from the Communist Party faction which decided to expell him after he agreed to become the minister without consultations with the faction.

Communists say that their faction members should not work in the current government.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Crackdown in Chechnya

Chechens Claim Rail Station Recaptured

LD1901093495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Bikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 19 TASS—Several Chechen field commanders claimed on Thursday they had recaptured the railway station in Groznyy from Russian troops and admitted they had suffered numerous casualties in the fighting. However, TASS corespondent in Groznyy could not confirm the reports from independent sources.

Artillery shelling of the Chechen capital resumed late on Wednesday after a certain decrease in combat activities. Fighting with varying success continued in the city on Thursday. Heavy flames rage through Groznyy as many gas tubes have been damaged.

Artillery shelling is gradually being targeted from Groznyy centre to the outskirts where it was relatively safe in the last days.

Going for water is a mortally dangerous business. TASS correspondent witnessed how several people were killed while going to the water source under heavy shelling. But people still queue at the source and many of them are killed in the line by bullets and splinters.

Some of the remaining residents continue to flee the city. Risking their life they leave it on cars with their belongings along ruined streets.

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Despite the shelling, urban communal services repair the damaged gas pipes and the fuel is again supplied to the remaining houses.

Chechen Control of Rail Station Denied

LD1901110995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Russian troops control the railway station in Groznyy, military sources in Moscow told TASS on Thursday thus denying claims of Chechen field commanders that they had recaptured the important object.

The field commanders also said in Groznyy that they had sustained numerous casualties in the fighting for the railway station.

Government Report on Combat Actions

LD1801163295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1222 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan—The press service of the Government of the Russian Federation has today released the following news report:

"In the course of the past 24 hours the federal forces have continued to conduct combat actions in the center of the city of Groznyy, spread the sphere of their influence, and blockade illicit armed formations. They have been regrouping their forces and cleansing individual districts of the city.

"The airfield engineering forces have continued restoration of the Groznyy-North airport.

"Work has been going on to ensure the operation of the Mozdok-Chervlennaya railway.

"On 18 January it is planned to continue operations to take possession of the central part of Groznyy, to blockade, break up, and disarm the illicit armed formations, and to broaden our sphere of influence and train reserves.

"In the past 24 hours the operations squad of the Ministry of Emergencies has prepared 72 tonnes of food for dispatch to the city of Groznyy.

"The situation in Groznyy remains complex. It has been established that at the present moment the presidential palace is defended by some 120 fighters. A mechanism has been worked out for their periodical replacement using underground communications. There are also some 50 Russian POW's in the building.

"The civilian population (mainly Russian-speaking) are in dire straits. People have no food. Hunger is beginning.

"An analysis of radio conversations between gangs of bandits shows that control among them has been partially disrupted. There are cases of individual gangs shooting at one another."

Lobov Discusses Security Council Role

MM1701110195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 95 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov by unidentified RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA; date, place not given: "Oleg Lobov: Revival of Chechen Republic Is Russia-Wide Affair. Russian Security Council Secretary Answers RIA-NOVOSTI Correspondent's Questions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [RIA NOVOSTI] How close to the elaborated scenario was the practical implementation of the Security Council plan for the restoration of law and order in Chechnya?

[Lobov] Any plan, this one included, constitutes not a dogma but a guide. The development of events required some adjustments to be made to it. The point is that the plan was largely geared to the peaceful resolution of the crisis. It regarded the possible use of troops as a subsidiary measure.

Repeated attempts to tackle the problem of disarming the illegal armed formations in Chechnya were foiled. It was necessary to embark on the obligatory use of force. This was no easy matter, since it is extremely hard to ensure the safety of a civilian population when disarming mercenaries and guerrillas ready to commit any crimes in order to preserve their indivisible state in Chechnya. Especially since their distinguishing trait is a desire to use women, children, and old people as a "human shield." During the military operations there was a constant, persistent leaning toward exploiting any opportunity of holding talks regarding the voluntary surrender of weapons and the dissolution of illegal armed formations with field commanders, prestigious representatives of the clans, elders, religious figures, and the local intelligentsia. The government appeal made on the president's instructions to members of the illegal armed formations to cease fire, lay down their weapons, and return to their homes and peaceful labor in return for government guarantees provided further confirmation of this.

[RIA-NOVOSTI] How much does the Security Council take account of the position espoused by leaders and public figures in the Caucasus region?

[Lobov] Very much so. The Security Council takes account of all constructive proposals. At the same time any attempts to shatter the sovereignty of the Russian Federation and destroy its state and territorial integrity are naturally rejected.

[RIA-NOVOSTI] What role is the Security Council expected to play in the future in normalizing the situation in Chechnya and the North Caucasus as a whole?

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[Lobov] I think that it should play a weighty, well-founded role. Mainly, an undoubtedly consolidating and constructive role. The revival of the Chechen Republic is after all essentially a statewide task. Its resolution requires the active participation of federal organs of state authority, organs of authority in Federation components not only in the North Caucasus, and public organizations. By definition the Security Council should generate and coordinate this multifaceted work. The first results are to hand: The railroad and airfield are being restored, life in the republic's northern rayons is being normalized, and the local population is being provided with humanitarian aid. Virtually all ministries and departments will start helping the Chechen Republic in the near future to restore industry, agriculture, and the construction of housing, municipal and social facilities.

As for the North Caucasus as a whole, it is no secret that it is one of Russia's most important regions in the economic and military-strategic context. And the Security Council intends to pay as much attention to its problems as necessary to reliably safeguard the national interests and security of the Russian Federation.

Russian, Foreign Mercenaries' Role Detailed

MK1801132095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Jan 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Georgiy Romashov: "Mercenaries in Chechnya. He Left His Home To Go Fighting..."

[FBIS Translated Text] The KOMMERSANT-DAILY editorial board has received from sources close to the Federal Border Service a document containing data on mercenaries from the North Caucasus republics and the near abroad countries fighting in Chechnya on Dzhokhar Dudayev's side.

Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin have already been informed of the data. Evidently, this information may significantly affect Moscow's policy with regard to the Federation components mentioned in the document. The report says that about 200 mercenaries, recruited by the Islamic Party of Dagestan, have left Dagestan for Chechnya. In Kabardino-Balkaria, 20 volunteers arrived in Groznyy via Malgobek 5 December. Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev has ordered the republic's internal affairs minister to send a detachment formed on the basis of the Ingush Internal Affairs Ministry regiment to Groznyy, the fact sheet says. It notes that some servicemen of the Ingush patrol and lookout service and Special-Purpose Militia Units have left for Chechnya and participated in the fighting on Dudayev's side. The document also reports that about 500 Ingush fighters have undergone training in Dudayev's formations and approximately the same number is being trained at a school in the Republic of Georgia as hunters for reconnaissance and sabotage operations in the mountains and as snipers. In Ingushetia, according to the federal service's document, measures are being taken to set up weapons depots, and prepare buildings and materiel to accommodate fighters in case the Dudayev regime falls. The document asserts that during the clashes that occurred when Russian troops were passing the village of Barsuki (Ingushetia), Russian servicemen were fired upon precisely by fighters of the "Abkhaz battalion" and the special-purpose regiment formed by Ingushetia.

West of Shaani-Yurt (Chechnya) fighters from Ukraine have been sighted, whose strength reached up to a battalion. On the Argun-Groznyy axis, the movement of Russian troops was impeded by sabotage groups of Ukrainian fighters in Russian Army uniforms. On 24 December, during combat operations near the villages of Alkhankala and Zakan-Yurt several mercenaries with the insignia of the Ukrainian Nationalist Organization were killed. The fact sheet presents specific facts confirming the arrival of mercenaries from the Baltics. In downtown Groznyy women snipers, members of the "White Stocking" organization, have been seen. On 12 December, a sniper detachment called "Black Tulip" arrived in Groznyy. From the Fizuli axis of the Karabakh front a detachment of Afghan mujahidin, up to 200 fighters strong, was sent to Chechnya. One such detachment (60 fighters) was airlifted by charter flight from Gyandzha (Azerbaijan) to Groznyy with weapons, munitions, and other equipment. According to information received by the Federal Counterintelligence Service of Dagestan, the "Gray Wolves" Azerbaijani organization has sent 80 fighters to Chechnya.

The Chechen community in Istanbul has organized the dispatch of volunteers to participate in the fighting in Chechnya. The most likely channel of dispatch is via Baku. The authors of the document also suggest that volunteers disguised as tourists may also be arriving in Chechnya via Nalchik and Makhachkala through tourist firms in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria). The Chechen community in Turkey has announced its readiness to send fighters to support Dudayev. Also in Turkey, fighters are being trained to be sent to Chechnya along the Baku-Makhachkala-Chechnya route. A decision has been made to mobilize the first group of fighters (up to 500 men) and to give Chechnya $4 million worth of aid. It was planned to send the volunteers and the hard currency from the city of Samsun by sea. On the territory of Afghanistan stations recruiting volunteers from among mujahidin to be sent to Chechnya were set up and have been in operation since mid-November. Volunteer groups thus formed—usually up to 50 men—are being sent along the routes Pakistan- Iran-Azerbaijan and Afghanistan-Iran-Azerbaijan. These groups enter Russia legally (as tourists, businessmen, or disguised as private persons visiting relatives) or illegally. According to the fact sheet, instructors from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Pakistan train levy-en-masse force members and professional fighters to employ guerrilla war tactics at bases in Shalinskiy and Vedenskiy Rayons of Chechnya. In a battalion of the "Abkhaz" regiment under a certain Adam Shutayev, 70 fighters have undergone training according to a program for special-purpose units in Pakistan.

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Yegorov Threatens Reform of 'Media System'

MM1701173395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jan 95 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report on interview with Russian Vice Premier N.D. Yegorov by unidentified "Kuban" Television and Radio Broadcasting Company correspondent: "Nikolay Yegorov: They Are Saving Children Under Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Government Vice Premier Nikolay Yegorov gave an interview the other day to a correspondent of the "Kuban" Television and Radio Broadcasting Company on several problems of the Chechen crisis. He is convinced that, had troops not been put into Chechnya, then by the summer Russia would have had a war involving the whole of the southern part of the country.

"Then, of course, we would have been counting the dead not in tens but in tens of thousands, because the population is a million strong there and lacks any kind of economy, while the place is absolutely awash with arms," Yegorov continued. "Former USSR Defense Minister Shaposhnikov touchingly recounted how he had not taken part in the handover of arms, but there is documentary evidence. He was then commander in chief of the CIS countries' Armed Forces, and here is his letter of 18 April 1992 in which he requests that military property and weaponry be handed over to Dudayev for its residual value. Here is the contract—it was signed by Lieutenant General Stroganov and Dudayev. It indicates the quantity of arms handed over. All of this would, of course, be firing on the Caucasus and Russia's south the next day."

["Kuban" correspondent] Nikolay Dmitriyevich, today we saw one of these weapons, a powerful howitzer, which 90 minutes ago our soldiers seized from Dudayev's men as a war trophy together with a supply of shells, and saw an infantry fighting vehicle. How long in your opinion will it take to wrestle these weapons from the gunmen's possession?

[Yegorov] I don't think we will need very long to get the heavy weaponry, but as far as the small arms are concerned.... There are enormous stocks of them. We will need to do a lot of mopping up. Whole dumps containing arms, ammunition, and food have been prepared.

["Kuban" correspondent] There is one other problem—the absence of full information. The information is certainly one-sided, and this is having an effect, because, you know, rallies are being held in Kuban, Stavropol Kray, and Rostov at which women are expressing concern for their children. How can this information vacuum be filled?

[Yegorov] Yes, I have drawn the following conclusions for myself: After this crisis, a radical reform of our state system is essential, and a radical reform of the Armed Forces is necessary so that young men do not take part in these conflicts but professionals who devote their lives to this occupation. Third, there should be a reform of the media system [reforma sredstv sistemy informatsii] because many media sources have today ended up in the hands of those whose interests lie in Groznyy. You see, the words about freedom and independence are all a smoke screen. There is a war going on for mineral wealth, for the oil concentrated here. Those people who are fighting for their interests in Groznyy are not quoting figures today, but the oil here is of high quality. There is already $10 trillion in prospected reserves.

["Kuban" correspondent] We have today been talking to soldiers who have come straight from battle. They are greatly offended by the fact that they are hardly to be seen on television. Meaning that people are not talking about them and the fact that are fighting a battle for the interests of Russia as a whole.

[Yegorov] But you see that the mass media have to all intents and purposes declared war on our statehood, and have declared war on the government and president. Of course that soldier who was in the trenches and saw with his own eyes all the atrocities will not get on television. But Pamfilova will, as will Gaydar and Kovalev. They after all are taking no risks. They are making political capital and they are neither putting their families nor their children at risk. Yes, we are risking this because any of us can imagine what will happen to his children if they are seized by those who have sworn vengeance. Everything is clear as far as all of us are concerned—we are already under sentence. But the same will happen to our families. And nothing will happen to Kovalev's family. His son is in the United States. He has a wonderful life there and is engaged in business.

["Kuban" correspondent] The boy we talked to spent four days buried in a basement, and it turned out that he was from the Maykop Brigade. When the arms were handed over to Dudayev this boy was only 14 years old. But today he has been forced to resolve problems initiated by adults in elevated positions....

[Yegorov] It is, of course, the young boys who are answering for all those things we see today on television when in fact they had nothing to do with them. On the other hand there are those other people who pass themselves off as benefactors, very noble people. You see, they say that children have perished there, but they do not say that mercenaries, bursting into a kindergarten, assaulted all the children and their teachers. We cannot put the woman, the kindergarten teacher who told us about this, before the television camera, as she fears for the lives of her children as well as for her own life.

Failure To Coordinate Aid Distribution Noted

MM1701163395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 1

["Reportage" by special correspondent Aleksandr Ryabushev: "Humanitarian Aid Reaching Gunmen"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok—Under very difficult conditions and at tremendous risk to life, detachments of the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters are building a peaceful life in liberated rayons. Every day since 11 December its people have been organizing the flying in of humanitarian aid to Mozdok from all over Russia. To date 1,220 tonnes of food and medical supplies have been delivered here from Russia. Humanitarian aid convoys are leaving Mozdok every day for Znamenskoye, Tolstoy-Yurt, Kizlyar, and Groznyy. Hundreds of trucks are taking humanitarian freight deep into Chechnya without coordination with territorial and federal management organs and are going missing on the way.

"Unfortunately," Sergey Shoygu, leader of the Ministry for Emergency Situations, said, "it is not yet possible to control its distribution. Food and medical equipment are frequently handed over by Nikolay Yegorov's services to people not known to us, without control or appropriate registration on the spot. Many administration heads fail to inform us of the sending of humanitarian aid from their own oblasts. As a result of a lack of coordination, it frequently gets to Dudayev, helps him to form partisan bases in the mountains, and often, as happened 3 January, ends up directly in his residence. Unless a mechanism for the distribution of food and medical supplies is urgently worked out and our convoys are escorted by combat hardware, then in the very near future Dudayev, making use of our irresponsibility, will create hundreds of food dumps for his army and will be able to feed his mercenaries for many months."

In the opinion of Lieutenant General L. Shevtsov, chief of staff of the Russian troop grouping in Chechnya, humanitarian aid must be handed over to his department for distribution. For refugees are now turning more to the Army for help. Then, he believes, staffers of the Ministry for Emergency Situations will have to run fewer risks escorting humanitarian convoys without combat hardware and there will be more opportunity for giving medical assistance to the civilian population and for organizing rescue operations in Groznyy and on the approaches to it.

Today the main staff of the operational group of the Ministry for Emergency Situations started relocating from Mozdok to Groznyy, where heavy fighting is continuing. Despite the Russian Government's decree on additional payments to persons in the Chechen Republic, servicemen and rescuers are receiving 5,000 rubles a day. At the same time, according to data of the Main Intelligence Directorate and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, each day is worth $1,000 to a Dudayev mercenary, and the same amount is paid out for each tank or infantry fighting vehicle knocked out. Hence it is clear who is benefitting from this war, which surpasses all previous ones in its cruelty.

'New Figure' at 'Center Stage' of Crisis

LD1801224195 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2052 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Nota Bene" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dudayev's representatives, Imayev and Abubakarov, were told that the general has a last chance to lay down his weapons and halt the bloodshed. That was the message they took to Groznyy this morning. However, Moscow's proposal was not accepted in Groznyy, because combat operations continued there after 1800 hours.

As for talks with the Chechens, they have been under way for several days now at various levels—with businessmen and representatives of the clergy and the intelligentsia.

Today a new figure appeared center stage. This is General Ibragim Suleymenov. He says that he is not aspiring to power. However, closely observing the situation in Chechnya, he arrives at depressing conclusions.

[Begin Suleymenov recording] Now, even in this situation, there is a power struggle to a certain extent. I personally find this offensive—as a person, as a citizen, and as a representative of the Chechen people. I think that one should struggle for power when democratic elections take place in the republic. Then one should struggle. Now, however, one should make every effort to stabilize the situation, and we should all be working toward this. [end recording]

In the past, Suleymenov, who headed the armed forces of the Chechen opposition, spent 10 months in a Dudayev prison. Now he is the leader of one of the influential Chechen clans. It is for this reason that he is one of the key figures in a Chechen settlement.

Assessing the causes leading to the present crisis, Suleymenov noted that Dudayev succeeded in creating his army thanks to money from the sale of oil. Suleymenov sees achieving a moratorium on the blood vendetta as the way out of the present crisis. In doing this, in his view, success can be achieved by working through a wide network of local leaders and even of field commanders who do not want to back Dudayev completely.

Drop in Military Shipments Noted

LD1801181495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1233 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Only four trucks carrying Russian personnel, three armored personnel carriers and six gasoline tanks passed through Ingushetia to Chechnya during the night of January 17 along the federal motorway linking Rostov and Baku, informed sources in the Ingush capital of Nazran told Interfax.

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Ingushetia sees the drop in intensity of military shipments to Chechnya as the end of the federal troops' regrouping and the availability of combat equipment for the decisive offensive in Groznyy.

Soldiers' Mothers Issue 'Ultimatum'

LD1801091295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran January 18 TASS—Mothers of Russian soldiers fighting in Chechnya issued a six-hour ultimatum to the Russian leadership urging to end the bloodshed and threatening a "deserved punishment" in case their demands are not met.

The ultimatum, signed by 22 mothers from nine Russian cities and made public in the Ingush capital of Nazran on Wednesday is to come into force since the moment when it is handed over to presidential envoy in Chechnya, Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov. The mothers intended to extend the ultmatum this morning, but it is not known whether they have succeedeed so far.

The mothers from the cities of Yaroslavl, Taganrog, Voronezh, Chelyabinsk, Murmansk, Rybinsk, Krasnodar, Tambov and Nazran warned that in case their demands are not met the women who had lost their relatives in the Chechen fighting "retain the right for a deserved punishment of the murderers of their children, mothers, sisters and brothers".

They did not say how they are going to execute the punishment, but stressed that the responsibility for the failure to meet their demands would rest with the Russian leadership and that the whole world would see the vengeance.

The women demand to end the shelling of Groznyy, to withdraw troops from the conflict area, publish the list of the killed soldiers and civilians, stop concealing the crimes and eliminating dead bodies, as well as supplying misinformation on army defectors.

"The implementation of the above-mentioned items is necessary to save those women, children, elderly people and Russian soldiers who are still alive and are staying in basements of Groznyy", they said.

The mothers also demanded that Russian acting prosecutor general Aleksey Ilyushenko cancels his instruction ordering prosecution of servicemen who had reportedly disobeyed orders in Chechnya.

Besides, they want that the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia be entrusted with distributing humanitarian aid because at present, according to the women, "it does not reach the people who need it".

On Wednesday the women intend to picket the Nazran Hotel where Russian and foreign correspondents are staying. They will most evidently demand to dismiss Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and counterintelligence chief Sergey Stepashin and to initiate criminal charges against them.

Legality of Action Against Generals Doubted

MK1801112095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 3 15-22 Jan 95 (Signed to press 17 Jan) p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Zhilin: "Attempt to Intimidate Generals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Ilyushenko has forgotten about the law." This was how specialists of the Main Military Prosecutor's Office [MMPO] commented on the statement by acting General Prosecutor Aleksey Ilyushenko on possible legal action against commanders refusing to carry out their superiors' orders during the military operation in Chechnya.

In the MMPO specialists' view, the General Prosecutor's Office should have first raised the question of whether the military operation in Chechnya is legitimate at all. A lack of a legal framework regulating the use of troops on Russian territory renders this operation fairly dubious from the legal point of view. Some time ago the Law on Defense granted the president such powers, but this provision was removed from it 24 December 1993. The current Constitution leaves the president this right only if martial law or a state of emergency is imposed. On the territory of the Chechen Republic neither has been introduced.

If the general prosecutor's office really proceeds with investigations, it will have to face up to the fact that participants in military operations in Chechnya acted as a rule without written orders. Given that, military lawyers think, no court will be able to prove the guilt of those who have refused to get themselves mixed up in a dubious operation. Ilyushenko's statement, some at the MMPO think, appears to be just "an attempt to intimidate Generals Vorobyev, Mironov, Gromov, Grigoryev (commander of the 67th Guards Corps—ed. board) by threatening criminal action" as a lesson not only to the top brass, but also to officers and soldiers.

According to the MMPO staffers, either the acting general prosecutor has a vague idea of the law, or he is willingly being led by politicians.

Defense Ministry on Weapons Transferral

LD1701115695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 16 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Defense Ministry insists on investigating the circumstances under which large amounts of weapons were passed to the Dudayev regime in 1991-92.

The Defense Ministry's statement, passed to Interfax on Monday, claims that the denials of some officials who are directly linked to the weapons issue of their roles in

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it does not reflect the actual state of affairs and is aimed at discrediting the armed forces' top leadership.

The statement also says that "the individuals who currently act as accusers are well aware of why some of the weapons ended up in the hands of Dudayev and his illegal armed groupings, and are well aware of the role which they personally played in this during their service in leading posts in 1991-92."

The Defense Ministry stated that "during that particular period, the military units located in the Chechen Republic were blighted with lawlessness, and engaged in crime, murder of servicemen and massive seizure of weapons and ammunition."

The document also says that no serious measures were taken by these officials to stabilize the situation in the region. As a result, by the moment of the troops' withdrawal from the Chechen Republic, up to 80 percent of the armaments and combat equipment had been stolen.

The Defense Ministry stated in this connection that "the division of military equipment, approved in a document to which Marshal Shaposhnikov is referring, was a forced measure which reflected the inactivity of the Union and then Russian government, and of former defense minister of the USSR and then commander of the United Armed Forces of the CIS." (Yevgeny Shaposhnikov - Interfax).

The Defense Ministry also writes that in these conditions "the division of weapons was motivated by the wish to save at least part of them."

"In view of the latest developments, the Defense Ministry insists on an all-out investigation of the problem and is ready to assist the work of a competent commission," says the Defense Ministry's statement.

Chechen General Cited on Arms Controversy

MK1801135095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Weapons" rubric: "Russian Hardware 'Could Have Been' Pulled Out of Chechnya in 1992. Chechen General Recalls How Dudayev's Army Was Set Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For more than a month have the Dudayev forces been putting up successful resistance to regular units of the Russian Army, apparently suffering no shortage of up-to-date weapons. The problem of "Chechen weapons" may become the key issue in investigating mistakes that have nearly brought the winter campaign in the North Caucasus to an impasse.

In November 1991, after Moscow's attempt to impose a state of emergency on the republic had dismally failed, Chechnya effectively became an independent state, and since summer 1992 it has been a very well-armed state to boot. Chechen General Suleymenov (Ibragim Suleymenov was Air Defense colonel in the Soviet Army and was promoted to general by the Chechen parliament) told your SEGODNYA correspondent his version of how this came about.

Following the elections of 27 November 1991, Ibragim Suleymenov became a member of parliament in Groznyy from the mountainous Vedenskiy district and chairman of the defense and security committee. The parliament also tasked Suleymenov with setting up a Chechen national security service. As a result, Gen. Suleymenov fell out with Gen. Dudayev, who, according to Suleymenov, was setting up his own "national security" service by recruiting a large number of former criminals—"the more serious the sentence, the more easily a person could get an appointment."

After Dzhokhar Dudayev disbanded the parliament Ibragim Suleymenov went over to the opposition and commanded its armed formations. In February 1994 he was seized by the Dudayev forces and spent nine months in a Groznyy prison (till 29 November). Now he is evidently laying claim to a key post in the post-Dudayev leadership of the republic.

Gen. Suleymenov confirmed that till spring 1992 weapons for the most part remained at garrison depots. Since several different groups wished to lay their hands on the weapons, their interests clashed, so the military camps were guarded not only by officers and warrant officers, but also by local Chechens. Gen. Dudayev told Suleymenov that he was negotiating with the Russian leadership on the creation of "an armed Chechen formation as part of the Russian Federation troops" on the basis of the Groznyy garrison.

In May 1992 Gen. Strogov, deputy district commander, arrived in Groznyy; he who told Suleymenov that an agreement had been signed to split the weapons "50:50" so as to rescue and pull out at least something. The arms agreement with Dudayev was signed "secretly," without consultations with the parliament, but nothing could be pulled out all the same except for the equipment of an air defense regiment—the Chechen were not interested in radars at the time.

In the first days of June Russian officers and warrant officers were evacuated from Groznyy together with their families. According to Suleymenov, in principle the garrisons could have been defended even at the time, had they been reinforced with reliable units earlier, in the spring—in 1992 the Chechen were still poorly armed and not as bellicose as they are now. After the Supreme Soviet rescinded Boris Yeltsin's edict on imposing a state of emergency in Chechnya, however, the Russian military did not dare take decisive actions.

A major part of Russian heavy weapons, which have since then been the Chechen leader's mainstay, then fell to the Dudayev forces. Small arms have spread throughout the North Caucasus. The Chechen parliament's attempts to take stock and keep an inventory of

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the weapons had been thwarted by Dudayev, Suleymenov said. The stage was set for a future war in the Caucasus.

Mozdok Morgue Admits 800 Bodies

LD1601200595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—Actual losses of Russian troops in Chechnya are much greater than it has been officially reported so far. Only the city mortuary in Mozdok, North Ossetia, has admitted about 800 bodies of Russian soldiers, sources in North Ossetian medical services told TASS on Monday.

It is expected that more detail on military losses in Chechnya will be given at a news conference to be held at the Russian Defense Ministry on Tuesday. The conference speaker will be chief of the Russian Defense Ministry's main military and medical department, Colonel-General Ivan Chizh.

Marine Losses Reportedly Mounting

MK1901092095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Zaynashev: "Marines in Frying Pan. Seventeen Marines Already Died During First Week of Fighting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Downtown Groznyy resembles a giant frying pan today. Whereas there is a smattering of snow or, more frequently, slush on the outskirts, the climate is very dry on the square fronting the presidential palace. Walls of houses are of a red, singed hue, and the pavement is covered in sooty dust.

It is into this dry climate that marines from the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, and the Baltic Sea have been immersed for more than a week. At first the arrival of marines in Chechnya was scheduled for 15 January, by rail. The military agency was impatient, however, and "got the boys aloft" as early as 9 January, when they were not quite ready yet for fighting.

One Northern Fleet subunit was loaded on a Mozdok-bound plane even without ammo. Things reached a pass where the paratroopers refused to fly unless they were fully armed, and the chiefs had to meet this demand. The "sea wolves" are to this day being supplied with ammunition by "their own" naval bases—every day, one or two military-transport An-12 planes reach Mozdok from Severomorsk and Kaliningrad.

As of 17 January, 17 marines have been killed and 36 wounded in Groznyy. Most of the wounds are heavy. The wounded marines are being put in naval hospital No. 32 in Kupavna [near Moscow], the Burdenko Hospital, and the Moscow Military District Hospital in Podolsk. Their beds are put in the corridors, halls, and utility rooms owing to the overcrowded hospitals. And meantime in downtown Groznyy it is as hot as before.

About 1,500 marines have been sent to Chechnya.

Siberian OMON Unit Disbanded

LD1901114795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irkutsk January 19 TASS—A unit of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] police in the Siberian city of Bratsk refused to go to Chechnya and was disarmed and disbanded for that, the "VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA" newspaper said on Thursday.

It quoted the leadership of the city interior department as saying that the policemen will be sacked for the refusal to fulfil the order.

Tatarstan Calls For Cease-Fire

LD1801172895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan January 18 TASS—The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Russia's ethnic Republic of Tatarstan on Wednesday called for taking all necessary measures to immediately stop the armed conflict in Chechnya and to prevent it from spreading to other regions.

Any attempts to solve internal political issues by the use of force is only to aggravate the social and political situation in Russia, Tatar lawmakers said in a statement.

The local parliament suggested that the conflict be settled with the assistance of "constructive forces wielding real power and controlling the situation in the fighting zone". The conflicting parties should make a wider use of the negotiating process, which has not been used to the full so far.

According to Tatar lawmakers, servicemen should take part in combat operations in the conflict zone only on a voluntary, contractual basis.

Karelian Troops Must Consent To Deployment

LD1801200095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Military actions in the Chechen Republic are aimed at preserving Russia's integrity while their consequences are increasing the centrifugal tendencies in the regions.

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According to our correspondent in Petrozavodsk, the republican chamber of the legislative assembly of Karelia today adopted the law under which the employees of the interior bodies can be sent outside Karelia to the regions of armed conflicts only on their own inititiave and on the basis of a written report, or in accordance with the conditions of their contracts.

Thus the law adopted in Karelia obviously contradicts the federal legislation.

Tyva Against Sending Local Officers

LD1801181595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Sobetskiky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyzyl, the Tyva Autonomy, January 18 (TASS)—The Supreme Hural (Parliament) of Russia's south Siberian Autonomous Republic of Tyva protested on Wednesday against sending officers of local law enforcement agencies to the north caucasus region.

In a resolution to this effect, the lawmakers referred to a pressing need to "combat crime and pay more attention to law and order in the republic itself." The resolution contains no mention of the Chechen conflict.

Yeltsin Annuls Chuvash President's Edict

MM1801144395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Jan 95 p 1

["Edict No. 52 of the Russian Federation President on the Edict of the Chuvash Republic President 'On the Protection of Servicemen'," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 17 January 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chuvash Republic president's edict No. 2 of 11 January 1995 "On the Protection of Servicemen" defines the special status of citizens living on the territory of the Chuvash Republic and performing military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces and the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Internal Troops. This edict contravenes the constitutional principle of the equal rights of Russian Federation citizens and effectively grants the Chuvash Republic's organs of state power the right to resolve questions connected with the use of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and the Russian Federation MVD Internal Troops, which contravenes Articles 59, 71, and 76 of the Russian Federation Constitution, according to which these questions are in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and are regulated by federal legislation.

In connection with the above, and guided by Articles 15 and 80 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I decree:

1. Edict No. 2 of the Chuvash Republic president of 11 January 1995 "On the Protection of Servicemen" is hereby deemed nonapplicable.

2. The president of the Chuvash Republic is invited to repeal his edict "On the Protection of Servicemen" as not corresponding to the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution.

3. The attention of the president of the Chuvash Republic is drawn to the impermissibility of adopting normative acts on questions which come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

4. This edict comes into force from the day of its signing.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, the Kremlin

17 January 1995. No.52

Government Statement Criticizes Edict

LD1701190395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1830 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Jan—The Russian Federation Government "condemns any speculation concerning the tragic events in the Chechen Republic, including attempts to sow the seeds of political strife and separatism under the guise of protecting servicemen." This is stated in a statement by the Russian Federation Government, the text of which was handed to ITAR-TASS today by the Russian Government press service.

The Chuvash republic president's edict of 11 January "On the Protection of Servicemen" must be seen in precisely this light in the view of the Russian Federation Government.

"By his edict, the president of the Chuvash Republic violates the provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and of federal legislation, interfering in questions exclusively within the remit of the Russian Federation and, in addition, indirectly encourages those who live in the republic to refrain from carrying out their service duties while serving in the Armed Forces," says the statement.

The Russian Government has called on all those who are in charge of various authorities in the Russian Federation "to show wisdom and responsibility and to lend support and assistance to the state so that the crisis on the territory of the Chechen Republic is resolved as speedily as possible."

"What is now at stake is not just the destiny of one of the republics of the Russian Federation, but the destiny of Russia as a whole," stresses the document.

Chuvash Parliament Issues Appeal

LD1701204595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2026 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Ivanova]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheboksary January 17 (TASS)—The Chuvash Parliament presidium called on the Russian Federation Council and State Duma today to "achieve termination of combat operations in Chechnya and start settlement of the conflict with peaceful means".

The presidium suggested immediate adoption of amendments to the Russian laws "on defence" and "on military duty and military service" which would allow to use only contractual volunteers in the Chechen-type conflicts, sources at the Chuvash Parliament press center told ITAR-TASS.

The presidium adopted an appeal to the Russian Federal authorities "sharing concern of soldiers' parents about their life and health and striving to settle the problems within the framework of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation". Some Chuvash Parliament deputies and electors insist that the Chuvash Parliament adopt a law on recalling Chuvashia recruits from the combat zone.

Chuvash Officials on 'War of Edicts'

LD1801225595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Bazhenov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan—The State Council of Chuvashia is in favor of halting combat actions in Chechnya and intends, within the framework of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, to promote the adoption by the Russian Federal Assembly of the appropriate laws. This was stated today by Chuvashia State Council Chairman Valentin Shurchanov, in a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

"The Chuvash republic," the speaker stressed, "unconditionally respects federal laws and intends to construct its relations with the federal center purely within the framework of the Russian Constitution." However, Shurchanov said, there are extremist groups of deputies in the State Council who propose to raise, at the parliamentary session that opens on 2 February, the question of a legislative recall from Chechnya of servicemen from Chuvashia.

Shurchanov described the situation that had arisen over the issuing of the edict by Chuvashia's President Nikolay Fedorov on the status of servicemen from Chuvashia and the subsequent countermanding of that document by an edict from Russian President Boris Yeltsin as "something of a misunderstanding." Shurchanov stressed that the Chuvash president's edict "was not a guide to action but was only explanatory and tentative."

Viktor Kisin, Chuvashia's representative to the supreme bodies of state rule of the Russian Federation, when asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent to state his point of view on the "war of edicts" between the presidents of Russia and Chuvashia, said that he "had not yet had a meeting with Nikolay Fedorov and, therefore, did not intend to second-guess the Chuvash leader's interpretation of his instructions." However, he did not rule out that Cheboksary might give its official reaction "in a day or two." Kisin described as "a pure coincidence" the fact that the Chuvash president's edict to withdraw inhabitants of that republic from Chechnya coincided with the discussion of that question in the State Council and explained the reason for this by saying that "parliament can debate any question at any time."

Chuvash Prime Minister Aleksandr Fedotov was also being cautious. In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said that he "does not know the republican leadership's view of Moscow's position." As far as his personal position is concerned, Fedotov stated his complete agreement with the text of the Chuvash president's edict and expressed bewilderment at "lawyers' incorrect interpretation of the document as an appeal for anti-federal actions." Chuvashia, he said, "does not intend to supplant the Constitution of Russia and does not intend to enter into any contradictions with federal laws."

Filatov Warns Regional Autonomy Moves a 'Danger'

LD1801182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief-of-staff, Sergey Filatov, has condemned various Russian regions' drive for greater autonomy as "posing a danger to the integrity of Russia."

Filatov told Interfax Wednesday that adoption by some regions of charters designed to give them more rights and limit federal authority resulted in numerous violations of the Russian Constitution.

The central government should by no means try to solve the problem by such "tough methods" as "unconditional abolishing" of such documents, which would lead to "a kind of war between center and regions," the chief-of-staff said.

He said the State Law Administration of the president's office would meet various experts and try to persuade regional authorities to change their attitudes. Many regional leaders "were forced to issue such charters due to pressure from nationalist and other forces who were after a higher rating," but, as the situation in the country is stabilized, "such forces will be weakening their pressure," Filatov said.

"But if explanations and meetings don't get us anywhere we'll have to appeal to the Constitutional Court," he said.

Territorial Duma Elected in Maritime Region

LD1701192195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 17 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok January 17 TASS—The first territorial duma has been elected in the Russian Maritime territory. The additional elections on January 15 completed the formation of a 31-member representative power body. Eight deputy seats are still vacant, but the current composition has a fully-fledged juridical status, sources at the Territorial Electoral Commission told ITAR-TASS.

The first-ever Maritime parliament is 90 per cent apparatchik-minded. Candidates of Russian parties and movements lost in the local elections, the elections in several districts were recognized invalid due to the low activeness of voters and a number of renown politicians and public figures, including ex-head of the Vladivostok administration Viktor Cherepkov, were not elected in the territorial duma.

The first meeting of the new body is expected to discuss the Maritime charter.

New Prime Minister Selected in Tatarstan

LD1601134495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 16 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazan, 16 Jan—A session of the Tatarstan Parliament opened today. At the session deputies voted unanimously in favor of Farid Mukhametshin taking the post of Tatarstan's prime minister. Mukhametshin was the former chairman of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet and is a member of Russia's Federation Council.

"We will seek to continue the policy of the previous Cabinet of ministers by reforming the economy. We will take tough measures to implement the budget," he told ITAR-TASS.

Economic Issues

No Changes Forthcoming in Moscow's Economic Policy

LD1801171695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Russian President "Boris Yeltsin has instructed me to firmly and clearly announce on his behalf at the world economic forum in Davos that any changes in the economic policy of the government in general and in Russia's policy of privatisation in particular are out of the question," First Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS after his meeting with President Yeltsin on Wednesday, Chubays said that "Boris Yeltsin, unfortunately, will not be able to go to the forum, and, most likely, (Prime Minister) Viktor Chernomyrdin either."

Chubays said he has been told by the president to head the Russian delegation to the Davos Forum.

Asked whether the situation in Chechnya might affect the delegation's work in Davos, Chubays said that "it will, of course, make our work harder."

Speaking about prospects for Russia to receive IMF and World Bank credits, he pointed out that "neither organisation is a political one and gives loans not on the basis of a country's policy, but its economy."

Further on Yeltsin Comments on No Economic Changes

LD1801182895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Russian President "Boris Yeltsin has instructed me to firmly and clearly announce on his behalf at the world economic forum in Davos that any changes in the economic policy of the government in general and in Russia's policy of privatisation in particular are out of the question," First Vice-Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said.

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Speaking to journalists in the Kremlin earlier today, Yeltsin regretted that neither he nor the prime minister would attend the Davos forum.

"We have an unusual situation in the country connected with the constitutional settlement in the Chechen Republic. Therefore the president and the prime minister are very busy," he said.

Chubays said he has been told by the president to head the Russian delegation to the Davos forum. He noted that in Davos the delegation will pursue two tasks. The first one is to inform the world community about Russia's policy—President Yeltsin has stressed lately that recent statements by some high-ranking officials reflect their own point of view and that conclusions concerning them and their conduct will be drawn soon. The second task is to reassure the Davos forum participants and the international community that there will be no changes in Russia's economic policy.

Asked whether the situation in Chechnya might affect the delegation's work in Davos, Chubays said that "it will, of course, make our work harder." At the same time, he pointed out that "no (foreign) government has

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raised the question of curtailing economic relations with russia or...support for Russian reforms."

Speaking about prospects for Russia to receive IMF and World Bank credits, he pointed out that "neither organisation is a political one and gives loans not on the basis of a country's policy, but its economy." We "will be able to find a solution to the problem both with the IMF and the World Bank," he added.

Optimistic Inflation Forecasts 'Too Bold'

MM1801152795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "Optimists' Spell"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In recent days officials have been speaking increasingly insistently and confidently to the effect that there is no reason for any leaps in inflation, that the reforms are certainly not frozen but have been proceeding particularly actively recently, and that inflation will begin to decrease in the very near future. And this at a time when both government supporters and the opposition are agreed in the opinion that Russia is experiencing its most difficult period in three years.

First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays (in IZVESTIYA) and Aleksandr Livshits, the president's aide for economic questions, (ITAR-TASS) have expressed clear and specific optimism about economic prospects for the immediate future.

The president's aide stated notably that inflation will start to decrease in February. The first vice premier is convinced that there are no real objective preconditions even for a simple deterioration in the situation, never mind an economic catastrophe.

However, against the backdrop of the Chechnya crisis, the still-unratified budget, and the panicky rumors about accounts being frozen, the above statements look too bold.

Remember that, starting with "Black Tuesday," inflation has been going up steadily. In November, according to State Committee for Statistics figures, it was 14 percent, and in December it was 16.4 percent. Why should it start going down in February?

Things are no better as regards the prospects of privatization—the reform's main achievement. According to Financial Information Agency figures, in January foreign investors expressed the wish to acquire only $20 millions' worth of shares in Russian enterprises. In August of last year the volume of orders had reached $500 million, while in November (before the events in Chechnya, but after Polevanov's arrival at the State Committee for the Management of State Property) the total fell to $300 million. If the new policy of the State Committee for the Management of State Property has led to a sharp reduction in the influx of foreign investments onto the Russian stock market, and the creator of the new policy, Vladimir Polevanov, has changed neither his job nor his viewpoint, then how can you look for sources of optimism here?

Both Chubays and Livshits are saying that a mood of panic for which there are no economic grounds is stirring up inflation. However, Andrey Illarionov, director of the Economic Analysis Institute, believes that it is not the citizens but the main state institutions, which are responsible for money and credit, that are tending to expect higher inflation.

The Central Bank recently raised the rate on centralized credits from 180 to 200 percent. The profitability of state short-term bonds reached 300 percent in December, whereas it had been at the level of 160 percent in the summer. Evidently, Illarionov believes, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance know something that is forcing them to expect a growth in inflation, rather than the reverse. And these signals are being received quite unequivocally by the professional players in the financial market.

Yes, to a certain extent inflation is a psychological phenonemon. But if half of the casualties in a fire have broken arms and legs, and they are told that the cause of their injuries was not the fire at all but panic, then you have to bear in mind that the cause of the panic was actually the fire, and not something else. Judging by the similar arguments being employed by Chubays and Livshits, they are collectively trying to persuade us or to put a spell on us and convince us that things are not so bad. Yevgeniy Yasin, who is more cautious about the shining predictions, also believes that there is no reason to expect impending disaster, although he does nevertheless stress that the situation is very serious.

Doubtless you can agree or disagree about whether there are reasons for considering the situation disastrous. But it is perfectly obvious that there is no cause for putting "optimistic spells" on public opinion. Spells are no longer effective against our illnesses.

Duma Official Criticizes Government's 1995 Draft Budget

LD1801205495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1615 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The inflation rate mentioned in the government's 1995 draft federal budget is understated twice or thrice against its more likely value, chairman of the State Duma's committee for economic policy Sergey Glazyev told a news conference on Wednesday. He is concurrently at the head of the Duma's faction of the Democratic Party of Russia.

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The adoption of such a budget would result in a decrease of 30 to 40 percent of each and every budget expenditure item in real terms, and, eventually, in a deterioration of social and economic situation in the country, Glazyev warned.

If we keep to the government's proposals, it will result in reiteration of the 1994 situation; that is, a slump in industrial production by additional 20 percent will be accompanied by further drop in investment activities and an irreversible degradation of the structure of national economy, he said.

Several machine-building and consumer-goods branches will be destroyed to the end under the circumstances, and all opportunities for future economic growth will be buried, he emphasized.

It is necessary to change the economic policy and bring it in conformity with actual problems which confront the country, Glazyev said.

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International Affairs

Official Says 1995 Budget Deficit Not To Exceed 5%

LD1901004195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1840 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The main requirement for the 1995 state budget will be to prevent its deficit from exceeding the 5 percent mark. Ukrainian Deputy Finance Minister Stanislav Bukovynskyy said this at a seminar on issues of financial, taxation, and business policies on 18 January.

According to him, if ministries and departments refuse to take relevant measures to increase the budget revenue, the Ukrainian Government charged the Finance Ministry to take such measures unilaterally.

Stanislav Bukovynskyy said that by the end of this week the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers would hold its sitting to consider a draft budget according to which it was planned to receive the gross domestic product in the amount of 4,032,000 billion karbovantsi (1,068,000 billion in 1994). The budget revenue is to reach 1,568,000 billion karbovantsi, which will account for 38.4 percent of the gross domestic product. The expenditure is planned at the level of 1,770,000 billion karbovantsi. Therefore, the budget deficit will stand at 202,000 billion karbovantsi (5 percent).

The formation of the budget revenue is planned, in particular, at the expense of the value-added tax (20 percent), regulation of the consumption funds (17 percent, although in 1994 this figure was 31 percent) and citizens' income tax (8.4 percent), etc.

It is planned to achieve the 5 percent budget deficit by means of increasing excise duties on spirits, imposing a moratorium on the provision of separate services, introducing changes into the financing of such spheres as education, culture, medicine, etc.

According to Stanislav Bukovynskyy, over 30 proposals in all will be considered.

Kiev, Tripoli Sign Trade, Economic, Cultural Agreements

LD1801232995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1840 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Vilen Semenyuk, Ukraine's minister of power engineering and electrification, and 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, secretary for the General People's Committee for Energy of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who lead the Ukrainian-Libyan intergovernmental cooperation commission, on 18 January signed agreements on trade, economic, and cultural cooperation and the regulations on the work of the above commission.

Semenyuk told UNIAN that the documents signed would allow both countries to sign a contract in the near future, which would enable Ukraine to cover 10 to 20 percent of its energy resource needs with fuels imported from Libya.

In its turn, Libya is interested in cooperation in such fields as building oil refineries, oil and gas pipelines, and roads and canals.

One of the commission members told UNIAN that the main project to be implemented by Ukraine in that Arab state would be the construction of a 3,000 km-long Libyan section of the Tunisia-Egypt railway. The planned value of the contract is 6.5 billion dollars. Building materials will be delivered from Ukraine.

Trade, Economic Agreement Initialled With Argentina

LD1901120095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A trade and economic agreement between Argentina and Ukraine has been initialled in Buenos Aires. Ambassador Viktor Pashchuk initialled the agreement on the instruction of the Ukrainian Government. In connection with this event, the Ukrainian Embassy and the Foreign Ministry of Argentina exchanged notes. The agreement is the first document that will regulate relations between the two countries in the economic sphere.

National Affairs

Black Sea Fleet Talks Hamper Country's Disarmament

WS1901080495 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 13 Jan 95 p 2

[Article by Serhiy Zhurets: "There Is No Third Option..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the course of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia on the future fate of the Black Sea Fleet, it is unlikely that someone would state that the fleet will be divided in the near future. But if one does not manage to settle all problems connected with the division by the end of this still fresh year, Ukraine will have to make the following choices: Either to breach the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, or to put up with the fact that, if needed, one will probably have to defend the country's southern region with the help of the Budapest memorandum on guarantees of security.

Where does the problem lie? To understand it, one should look closer at the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was signed in Paris on 19 November 1990 between the former USSR and 21 other

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countries. The treaty summed up the protracted negotiations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO on correlations between non-nuclear forces deployed in Europe.

After the USSR's collapse, CIS countries assumed the responsibilities for implementing the terms of the treaty. In 1992, Ukraine signed the final document on the extraordinary conference of countries—members of the treaty—and the final act on negotiations on numerical strength of military personnel in Europe, and announced that it would begin implementing the treaty beginning 17 August 1992. As for quantitative indicators, to put it this way, which were set for all members of the treaty, Ukraine should have a clearly defined level of conventional weapons as early as 1995—4,080 tanks, 5,050 armored vehicles, 1,040 warplanes, 330 helicopters, and 4,040 pieces of artillery. Weapons exceeding the defined levels are being reduced. In Ukraine, this relates to airplanes, tanks, and armored vehicles.

As a matter of fact, for Ukraine the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is connected not only with the reduction of surplus weapons, but also with limits on the deployment of armed forces in certain regions, particularly, on the territory of the Odessa military district.

However, the peculiarity of the situation is that the arsenal of the Odessa military district will be estimated together with the arsenals of the former USSR's Black Sea Fleet deployed in Crimea. The fleet, after all, consists not only of vessels. The Black Sea Fleet also includes the Coast Guard troops, marines, and air forces, the number of weapons of which exceeds the level set for Ukraine. Still, as everyone knows, these troops are de facto under the jurisdiction of Russia.

So, what consequences does this have for Ukraine with regard to the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe? I addressed this question to Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy defense minister, who commented on the situation in the following way:

"Since the Black Sea Fleet problem remains unsolved, and Russia refuses to hold separate negotiations on the Coast Guard troops, marines, and air forces, which also fall under the treaty, Ukraine is not able to resolve the problem of reducing conventional weapons. We cannot reduce something which is under double jurisdiction. Although we are always addressing this issue during negotiations with a Russian delegation, the Russian side is refusing to meet us halfway. However, it is Ukraine which is responsible for the implementation of the treaty on the Ukrainian territory."

What will happen later? Later, Kiev will have two remaining paths.

The first one is that, having no possibility of affecting the future fate of the Black Sea Fleet units, Ukraine should begin the destruction of surplus weapons in the Odessa military district, not to violate the terms of the treaty. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry will then have fewer conventional weapons under its direct jurisdiction in the region, than the treaty envisions. Perhaps this situation would not particularly bother the Ukrainian military leadership, if it had not been for yet another detail. While the Warsaw Pact still existed, the Odessa military district obtained the status of a so-called "flank" rayon with additional limits on the number and deployment of military equipment. These limits were preserved after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. After all, practically on 25 percent of its territory (the Odessa military district cover 23 percent of the Ukrainian territory), Ukraine may deploy no more than 7 percent of armored vehicles, 9 percent of tanks, and 12 percent of artillery pieces, out of the total number of weapons our country may keep. For Ukraine, which remains outside any blocs, such a disproportion has a negative effect on ensuring military security in its southern region. Kiev repeatedly emphasized this issue even before deterioration of the situation surrounding the Black Sea Fleet Coast Guard troops, marines, and air forces.

Kiev's second path consists of putting to the fore the issue of its own security and trying to convince other countries—members of the treaty—that Ukraine is unable to implement the terms of the treaty, due to Moscow's inflexibility with regard to the division of the Black Sea Fleet and the withdrawal of its Russian part from the Ukrainian territory. Given such an approach, an international mediator might join the dispute between Moscow and Kiev on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

What about Russia? Russian representatives, in the course of negotiations held in Vienna and during meetings of a consultative group, are demanding that their Western colleagues allow them to revise separate terms of the treaty. In particular, the Russians want the weaponry of the marines, air force, and Coast Guard troop excluded from the quotas defined for flank rayons. The Russians are also demanding that limits imposed on the North Caucasian military district, which is also considered a "flank" rayon, also be lifted. Having bet on a forceful method of resolving the Chechen conflict, the Russian military department wants to have under its jurisdiction much more military equipment (with regard to various types of weapons—from 30 to 60 percent), than is envisioned by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. If Western partners do not meet Moscow's demands, Russia will be forced to unilaterally revise terms of the treaty, as Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information Department, has recently stated. Meanwhile, official Kiev, having ended up dependent on Moscow again, will hardly dare to take a similar step.

Crimean Official Discusses Resettlement of Tatars

WS1901075795 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Jan 95 p 4

[Interview with Osman Adamov, chairman of the Crimean Autonomous Republic Government State

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Committee for Issues of Interethnic Relations, by Sevil Kurshutova and Oleksandr Pilat in Crimea; date not given: "A Difficult and Long Return Home"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Osman Adamov has become chairman of the State Committee for Issues of Interethnic Relations (Derzhkomnats) in the new government of the Crimean peninsula.**

Although Derzhkomnats deals with issues concerning the return and settlement of Crimean Tatars, Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians, and Germans, in this interview we addressed only the situation of the largest deported nation.

So, we are speaking with Osman ADAMOV, chairman of the Crimean Autonomous Republic Government State Committee for Issues of Interethnic Relations.

[Correspodent] **Osman Kurtiyovych, how is the return and settlement of the Crimean Tatar people proceeding?**

[Adamov] It is quite difficult. According to our data, as well as the data of city and rayon executive committees, almost 240,000 Crimean Tatars are currently living on the peninsula (there are much more of them in places to which they were deported). They are predominantly inhabiting Bilohirskyy, Bakhchysarayskyy, and Simferopolskyy rayons and the city of Simferopol, and a very insignificant part of them—the Black Sea coast. However, before their deportation on 18 May 1941, everything was just the contrary. The Crimean Tatar people mostly lived in seaside towns, settlements, and villages. Currently, with great difficulties, one can obtain a visa in, for example, Yalta or Alushta, though it is only given to those who can prove that they themselves, or their parents or grandparents, lived in this place before deportation.

[Correspodent] **You certainly remember last year's events in the town of Krasnyy Ray in the vicinity of Alushta?**

[Adamov] You see, the local authorities then destroyed the temporary housing of Crimean Tatars. The action, however, brought about a counteraction. There may be different attitudes toward these events, but I believe that Crimean Tatars, during the conflict which they did not provoke, proved that one must reckon with this nation, all the more so since its demands are justified.

[Correspodent] **People are saying that the process of returning has recently abated.**

[Adamov] That is true. Almost 25,000 families, that have already returned, have no ability to build housing, due to high prices for materials, transport, etc. Moreover, those who are building houses, are doing so very slowly. Winter has already come, and you can go there and see that certain people have merely managed to raise walls, and others have somehow managed to raise roofs on their houses and barely equip one or two rooms, and are living there in groups of seven or eight people. I would like to emphasize that from 65 to 70 percent of those who have returned are still unsettled. The following paradox is occurring: Some Crimean Tatars live in Crimea, and outside Crimea. They come here for the summer, and in the winter they return to Uzbekistan, Russia, and other CIS countries, to which they had been deported. Families are separated. Husbands are building houses, and their wives, children, and parents are still living elsewhere.

[Correspodent] **Osman Kurtiyovych, what is your concept for resolving this problem?**

[Adamov] I would like to state with all responsibility that 90 percent of Crimean Tatars are not able to return and settle without state assistance. Unfortunately, there is still no appropriate state program.

I am convinced that the efforts made by one state—Ukraine—are clearly not enough. Moreover, it was not Ukraine that deported us. We cannot understand why the Uzbek and Russian authorities are indifferent to our problems. In places of deportation, our people worked honestly—they built factories and plants, worked at industrial enterprises, fields, and plantations, and created the wealth of those countries.

Ukraine is actually doing for us virtually impossible things. I wish, however, that Ukrainian leadership would hold talks with the leaders of Middle Asian countries and Russia on the organization of their assistance to Crimean Tatars, because there are too many problems.

[Correspodent] **Last spring, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov stated that "literally these days, aid amounting to 50 billion rubles will arrive from Russia."**

[Adamov] Unfortunately, these were merely words, which were in no way and by no means confirmed. We still do not know with whom Yuriy Meshkov made agreements.

[Correspodent] **Derzhkomnats is supposed to be a coordinative body with regard to the issue of settling the deported people.**

[Adamov] This is exactly so, but you should look closer at this issue. We, for example, help purchase fuel. As little as one tonne per family, out of the three or four needed, is being allotted at preferential prices. There are also enormous difficulties with providing houses with light and water. We are also concerned over employment. Currently, 46,000 able-bodied Crimean Tatars are unemployed. In places of deportation, people would usually work in the heavy industry, as well as at radio engineering and electronics enterprises. Some of them, particularly young people, will have to be retrained. We will create an infrastructure in inhabited places—health care units, services, and stores. This is essential for us. Additionally, there will be new workplaces. We are also resorting to the practice of work at home for women with large families. Unconditionally, in the Crimean Autonomous Republic Derzhkomnats is to play, as the saying goes, first fiddle in this process.

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Particularly, I would like to emphasize one thing. The political situation on the peninsula is significantly affecting the settlement of our problems. Due to instability, there are no investments, even though there are many people who are willing to invest. They say, however, that they will invest only if our political situation normalizes. Seemingly, Ukraine should more substantially and decisively influence this process. And it is already time to adopt legislative acts regarding the full rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar people.

Ministry To Look Into Communist Wish To Renew USSR

LD1901100895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian president's administration has instructed the minister of justice and other relevant judicial services to analyze the situation with regard to the activity of the Communist Party of Ukraine to collect signatures for a referendum in favor of restoring the USSR. The president is to be informed of all the necessary lawful actions which would need to be adopted. According to the Novyny television and news agency, this was also reported by the administration of the head of the Ukrainian state. It was also stated that the administration was preparing a number of decrees on revoking a number of Crimean Government resolutions that are in contravention of Ukrainian legislation.

Kuchma's Approval Rating at 72 Percent

LD1801223695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan 18 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—Seventy-two percent of the electorate support Leonid Kuchma's activities, according to a poll conducted in Ukraine by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Nearly every other person polled believed that democratic changes could help Ukraine in overcoming its economic problems. Two thirds supported development of comprehensive links with the West and Russia.

Nearly 80 percent were short of cash to buy foodstuffs. A majority were dissatisfied with the way things are in Ukraine.

Khmelnytsky Nuclear Reactor Shut Down After Mishap

WS1901111695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2014 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khmelnytsky, Jan. 18—The emergency stoppage system in the first reactor of the Khmelnytsky nuclear power station was activated early Monday [16 January] after three main circulating pumps were disconnected from the mains due to a failure of the power supply of the transducers, the Ukrainian State Committee for Atomic Energy told Interfax-Ukraine Jan. 16.

Serhiy Nazarenko, an agency official, said there had been no increase in radiation levels at the plant, but reasons for the accident are under investigation. The reactor was scheduled to be shut down shortly for repairs and maintenance of its control and safety systems, he said.

Division of Power Law Causes Government 'Tensions'

WS1901110595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2014 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Report by Halia Pavliva and Natalia Olynec]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec. 18—Growing tension between parliament and the president's administration will prevent the constitutional law on state power and local self-government from being passed in January as planned, assessed presidential spokesperson Mykhailo Doroshenko Wednesday [18 January].

The controversial law proposed by President Leonid Kuchma outlines the division of powers between the judiciary, legislative, and executive branches. Kuchma supports strengthening the vertical executive power by subordinating local councils to the executive branch. The bill was passed in first reading Dec. 28 and is scheduled for further review by parliament in early Februrary. Kuchma said he will hold a nationwide plebiscite on key articles of the power bill if it is not passed by parliament.

The main point of contention over the law in the leftist dominated parliament is the intended weakening of the system of local soviets or councils. "According to the 1978 Ukrainian SSR Constitution, the councils held powers without boundaries. It was a decorative packaging for the power of the Communist Party," said Tabachnyk. "The division of three branches of power proposed by the bill can of course be presented as a limiting of council power," he added.

Tensions between the president and parliament came to a head when leaders of rayon [district] governments met Tuesday to create an organzized show of opposition to the law, according to Tabachnyk. "The people of Ukraine are concerned over Kuchma's efforts to liquidate the system of council government," said one rayon leader at the meeting.

But Oleksandr Lavrynovych, a member of the joint coordinating committee formed to work out disputed points in the law, agreed with Tabachnyk that the rayon leaders' meeting was just provocation. "I do not understand the point of a meeting that attempts to take over the functions of the coordinating committee created to take into account all points of view regarding the law,"

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he said. The joint coordinating committee includes both deputies and members of the presidential administration.

Kuchma has blamed Moroz for increasing tensions between the executive and legislative branches by making public statements in the name of the Socialist Party, according to Tabachnyk. In an interview with Interfax Jan. 12, Moroz said Kuchma himself admitted his proposed law has few elements of democracy.

But Kuchma spokesman Tabachnyk denied this allegation. "Nowhere and at no time did the president say such words," he said.

Meanwhile Moroz announced that together with his advisors he has developed a draft law on the changes to the Constitution that are directly connected to the separation of state powers, according to the Open Media Research Institute.

"New provisions are implanted very cautiously in order not to ruin the constitutional field of Ukraine," Moroz said. Moroz believes that the draft presidential version of the same law is giving supremacy over the judicial branch to the president, which hardly corresponds to a practice of the developed industrial countries.

Leftists are standing firm against the presidential initiative. In an interview with the Artemivsk (Donetsk oblast) newspaper VPERED (Forward), Oleksandr Cherepkov, one of the leaders of the Socialist party said, "The bill first of all reminds me of the law passed by the Reichstag in 1933 which gave the head of the executive branch the powers of the legislative and judicial branch."

Four Major Democratic Parties Sign Joint Statement

AU1901125595 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Mykhaylo Malash, head of the Press Service of the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association: "Perhaps, This Time, It Will Last?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Touch wood, but the last week of the last year may go down in the history of the Ukrainian national democratic movement. Precisely then, in the headquarters of the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association, which by the will of fate, occupies premises in the Central Council building, leaders of four major democratic parties signed a joint document under the title "Provisional Statutes on the Council of Ukraine's Democratic Parties." It was signed by Volodymyr Yavorivskyy on behalf of the Democratic Party, Vyacheslav Chornovil on behalf of the People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka], Ihor Losyev on behalf of the Christian Democratic Party, and Mykhaylo Horyn on behalf of Ukraine's Republican Party.

The document reads that the objective of the Council is to coordinate actions of those parties, which have similar programs and which are represented in Ukraine's Supreme Council. The Council will coordinate the activity of Ukraine's reformist democratic forces in carrying out joint public and political measures. The Council's efforts will be directed toward coordinating candidacies during election campaigns, and specifying positions regarding the course of economic reforms, the government's external and internal policy, work of the Supreme Council, the development of democracy, and establishment of statehood in Ukraine. The Council will hold conferences and "round tables" on most important problems of Ukraine's state building and political life. It will make statements in the mass media on coordinated ideas of parties on important issues.

The statement points out that it remains open to signing by other parties. Incidentally, Vitaliy Kononov, chairman of Ukraine's Green Party, has already expressed his consent to join the statement. At present, the Council conducts consultations with representatives of parties of social democratic orientation, and there is a hope that the group of parties ready for joint action will grow considerably in the future.

"The Provisional Statutes..." envisage the nomination by the Council of a coordinator, whose functions will be determined by members of the Council in the process of work. Incidentally, Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association, has been tentatively appointed as the Council's coordinator.

On 5 January, the first joint meeting of the Council of Democratic Parties and the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association was held. It was decided that the two organizations will work in parallel, independently of each other, but they will also closely cooperate. The first joint action by the Council and the Association will be marking Ukraine's anniversary of independence and unity. It is planned to hold a festive meeting of Kiev's democratic public on 22 January. The meeting also adopted a statement on Russia's aggression against the Chechen people.

Economic Issues

Finance Ministry Official Views New Taxes

WS1901113095 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 12 Jan 95 pp 1,2

[Interview with Vasyl Rehuretskyy, first deputy chief of the Main Tax Inspectorate at the Ukrainian Ministry of Finances, by Yuliya Nepomnyashcha; place and date not given: "We Have the Lowest Tax on Profit in Europe, Thanks to the New Law on Taxes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nepomnyashcha] **There has been a long discussion among Ukrainian economists as to how to tax enterprises. The dispute has recently ended in favor of a law on imposing a tax on enterprises' profits, which was passed by the Supreme Council on the New Year's eve. What importance does it have?**

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[Rehuretskyy] All enterprises had been waiting for this law, since the previous mechanism for imposing taxes had been very imperfect. The basis for calculating profit, the so-called income, included both profit and wages. Therefore, an unprofitable company actually had to pay taxes from its wage fund, which, as I have already said, was also subject to taxation. Enterprises with high costs of labor, which have large wage funds and very low profits, suffered particularly in such situations.

In general, it must be said that the old mechanism bred injustice and an unequal approach to imposing taxes on different categories of payers.

Now, there will be a much more civilized principle, which is used in almost all developed countries. The point is that if a company made one karbovanets in profit, it should pay a clearly defined part of if to the budget. Since we established a 30-percent tax, this will be 30 kopeks for each karbovanets.

If a payer's operations are connected with certain difficulties, if he makes no profit, he will not pay taxes at all. This is one of the main points of the new bill.

In general, the bill is aimed at supporting producers of goods. We proposed the lowest tax among those currently existing in countries in Europe and around the world—30 percent. As a rule, taxes in those countries range from 35 to 40 percent, or even more. In Scandinavian countries it is 50 percent, and in Germany—even [passage indistinct].

Another peculiarity of the law is that it makes it possible to arrange a system of granting exemptions. Currently, the law unequivocally stipulates that exemptions are granted by lowering the calculated profit for enterprises which will spend their revenues on the reconstruction and replenishment of production development funds. That is to say that regardless of which branch a company is related to, if it takes care of its technical development, it is allowed to lower its calculated tax to 20 percent, and this is a substantial discount.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Anyway, what should one do with unprofitable enterprises?**

[Rehuretskyy] Frankly speaking, during the transition to the market, such enterprises must be declared bankrupt and brought in line with the new conditions through privatization.

Nevertheless, our law provides a chance for those enterprises which may suffer losses from their operations, but are important for the national economy. We proposed the following: If a newly created enterprise begins its operations, it will have an opportunity to transfer its losses to future profits, which it will make after the first three years of operation. The period during which the losses can be refunded has been set at five years. There is another detail. If an enterprise, which previously incurred losses, is privatized, it will also have the right to repay the losses by transferring them to future profits. There is one reservation, however—only those losses which an enterprise suffers as a result of its specific program, and not, for example, because of payments of certain penalties, inefficient management, etc.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Could you provide more details about the system of exemptions**

[Rehuretskyy] I have already named some of them. Other exemptions consist of supporting enterprises employing invalids. For instance, any enterprise, regardless of its form of ownership, at which invalids work in places specially adjusted for them, is allowed to lower its calculated profit to 50 percent. Enterprises owned by public organizations of invalids, half of the staff of which are such workers, may keep the full amount of calculated taxes for their own purposes and use them for the social needs and adaptation of invalids. In this situation, however, controls will be imposed.

I will describe another category of exemptions, which, speaking frankly, we would not like to have. This relates to the agricultural sector. We wanted the new law to be just for everyone. Clearly, our evidence was not significant enough, and the Supreme Council resolved that the profits of producers of agricultural products will be exempted from tax in full. It also added all construction companies which build in rural areas and certain other enterprises, dealing with services or production of goods for agriculture.

I see a certain injustice here, because producers of agricultural products are currently very close to industrial production. Many farms have their own production complexes, which reprocess produce and release industrial goods, and are highly profitable. We argued that since the tax on profit is currently paid to local budgets, meaning that it remains on the territory on which those farms are located, it would be more justifiable if highly profitable farms paid a part of their profits to the local budget. This idea, I would like to repeat, was not upheld.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Does the law require a new approach to the drafting of the budget?**

[Rehuretskyy] Yes. It also alters the budget. This primarily relates to the fact that all taxes on profits will be paid to local budgets. Until recently, there was a nationwide tax, and a certain part of it was allotted to a lower level from nationwide revenues. Now, it is supposed to be the opposite.

[Nepomnyashcha] **Will the parliament not claim that such a low tax does not make it possible to form a budget and pay wages to teachers, doctors, etc.?**

[Rehuretskyy] To a certain degree, the adoption of this law will lead to a reduction in the volume of tax, from which the budget revenues are formed. We are convinced, however, that the reduced tax will become a stimulus for increasing the production of goods, and thus—increasing the volume of profit. And we will collect more money from higher profits, even if the tax is

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lower. Due to the fact that our state budget currently has a huge deficit, certain expenditures will be revised. I believe, however, that enough money will remain for the upkeep of the welfare sector.

[Nepomnyashcha] **What laws are still needed to make Ukraine's taxation policy completely perfect?**

[Rehuretskyy] We should have a law on VAT and citizen's incomes, and the means of imposing an excise tax on goods should be rearranged. All relevant drafts are currently in the Supreme Council, and one will only be able to say how we will form the budget revenues if they are passed.

I would like to bring up another very important matter, especially for businessmen. The new law changes the rules of making advance payments. This was a very painful issue for all taxpayers, since advance payments—that is payments made in advance of the results of operations—often led to a situation, in which enterprises paid much more money than they had to pay according to the results of their work. Now, there will be no advance payments. And the tax will be paid every month according to the actual results.

[Nepomnyashcha] **You addressed the issue of a tax on land, but this means that the parliament should achieve full clarity as to forms of ownership of land, and the land reform in general.**

[Rehuretskyy] It is unconditionally so. The point of our proposals is that the price of land should actually be fixed, and that a tax should be estimated according to this price, and not according to the amount of square meters, as is currently being done. Unfortunately, the current charge for land is not a tax which would conform to its purpose. It is so low, that taxpayers do not feel it at all. Amendments to the charge for land have also been drafted, and they will be submitted to the Supreme Council for consideration at its third session.

[Nepomnyashcha] **The new law also provides for 45-percent and 60-percent taxes. In what areas will they apply?**

[Rehuretskyy] Yes. Two taxes, which will only apply to separate forms of operation, have been introduced. The 45-percent tax will apply to brokerage operations, and the 60-percent tax—to taxes on the gambling business—casinos or facilities with gambling machines. Quite huge profits, which are not connected with a huge outlay of labor, are made in this area. This is why such a high tax was proposed here. However, it will be in force until a separate piece of legislation on levying taxes on these kinds of operations is adopted.

Prime Minister's Adviser Views Economic Situation

WS1901120095 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 30 Dec 94 p 7

[A. Shtolko report on the recent report by Vitaliy Melnichuk, adviser to the Ukrainian prime minister on economic issues, to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: "Ukraine's Economy: Up the Stairs, Which Is Going Downstairs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Statistics are an obstinate thing, in particular, if they are about the economy. Vitaliy Melnichuk, who is adviser to the Ukrainian prime minister on economic issues, studies economic developments in independent Ukraine and reports on them to his leadership. His last report, however, has received wide publicity because it is "dreadful" even for the uninitiated.**

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma addressed the legislature with the program of profound economic reform, the aim of which is the transition to a market economy. It was clear at the time that—despite the fact that the program included profound and positive reforms—even shrewd experts would not be able to implement a small portion of it. Attempts to draw attention to the ambiguous nature of the presidential program sank in the waves of enthusiastic opinions.

According to Vitaliy Melnichuk, shortly afterwards, dyed old dogmas and outdated ideas tailored to suit the new powers began to fill political rooms cleared up by Leonid Kuchma's decisive activities. According to most observers, the primary drawback of the implementation of the program is the lack of integrated and well considered actions, as well as fascination with administrative methods. As a result, economic statistics deteriorated.

If GDP production in January-September of the current year increased—compared with 1993—between 7 and 8 percent, it dropped sharply in early December (between 3 and 3.2 percent). We can observe a similar picture with our national revenue. In September it stood at 80.2 percent of last year's level, while between October and December it did not reach 76 percent.... If we interpret these "mysterious percents," we could draw a picture not fitting for the Christmas season.

A drop in production is taking place in key industrial sectors, in addition, their share within the structure of industrial production is being constantly reduced. Electric power engineering, which produced 87 percent of last year level's in late November and has accounted for a 15-percent increase if compared with October, is in a somewhat better situation. The remaining sections that are vitally important for the national economy have lowered their indicators. For example, ferrous metallurgy reached 71 percent of last year's level (production went down by 16 percent since October), machine-building—58 percent (production went down by 5 percent since October), food industry—83 percent (production went down by 14 percent since October).... I can go on with this list, however, it is not worth doing....

According to Vitaliy Melnichuk's estimates, our primary disasters arise from the use of wasteful technological processes. For example, the amount of fuel to produce one tonne of cast-iron has been increased by 5 percent, one tonne of cement—between 7 and 8 percent, and

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electricity [amount not specified]—15 percent. The crisis has also effected our agricultural-industrial complex. Some 2 million tonnes of meat (88 percent of the 1993 level) and 10 million tonnes of milk (94 percent of the 1993 level) have been bought from producers between January and November. As of 1 December, the total number of livestock has been reduced between 10 and 25 percent.

The crisis has not escaped our consumer market. Production of consumer goods has decreased by 27 percent, while production of food products—18 percent. Our retail trade turnover has decreased by some 20 percent—compared with the 1993 level—while the price index on the consumer market has reached 354.5 percent. Before September, the personal income of the population—for the first time over a three-year period—grew quicker than prices: 1.3-fold increase against 1.64-fold increase. The situation in between September and November, however, changed. [Personal] income increased 1.76-fold and prices—2.1-fold after the notorious price increase. In addition, according to the adviser to the prime minister, if the share of July wages within the personal income of the population amounted to 62 percent, the November wage decreased to 47 percent.

The situation is very difficult. The negative factors in November have considerably exceeded the positive processes which took place in the Ukrainian economy before October. In Vitaliy Melnichuk's opinion, the primary reason is poor implementation of economic reform. It is necessary to raise the buying capacity of the population, reduce taxes, and abolish mandatory advance payments. There are more specific proposals than this as to how overcome the current situation.

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Belarus

Cooperation Treaty Between Oblasts Signed

WS1901081095 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of a variety of oblasts of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine—who met in Novgorod [Russia]—have signed an agreement on cooperation. The Novgorodskoye Veche communique announced the establishment of direct economic ties, the development of joint scientific-research programs, and the decision to set up a working body to coordinate the development of interregional cooperation. In addition, Novgorod and Vitebsk Oblasts—initiators of this meeting—have concluded a bilateral agreement based on many common issues. Uladzimir Andreychanka, chairman of Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee, in particular, was interested in the circulation of promissory notes—instead of money—in Novgorod Oblast. It was decided to apply this in relations between economic entities.

Former Lukashenka Associate Joins Centrist Party

LD1801222895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The co-chairman of the Party of Belarusian Unity and Accord [BUA] Mikahil Sharshavitskii has said his was a centrist organization seeking to promote society's systemic transformation with due regard for local ethnic traits and geo-political realities.

Sharshavitskii, a former deputy chief of the presidential press service and current director of the national press center said the BUA party was going to build its relations with the current authorities on the basis of constitutional and democratic principles". He said that his party had no intention of confronting with the president and his team or any other legally elected authorities.

Sharshavitskii also said that the chief of the parliamentary committee for legislation Dmitriy Bulakhov had agreed to become a member of the party's leadership bodies.

IF note: During last summer's presidential election campaign Bulakhov led Lukashenka's election campaign. However, shortly after the inauguration Bulakhov's influence in the Lukashenka team weakened. According to official sources that was due to Bulakhov's attempt to use his position to render assistance to a commercial structure. According to other sources, Bulakhov's sudden fall into disfavor was caused by differences with the president and his close associates, current national security secretary Viktor Sheiman and technical affairs manager Ivan Titenkov on personnel policies and tactics of implementing the political course. First President Lukashenka formally declared the intention to appoint Bulakhov State Secretary of the Presidential Council, however the chief ideologist of Lukashenka's election campaign eventually became the presidential representative in parliament. Bulakhov performed his functions on a volunteer basis, because under the current legislation any appointment under a presidential decree requires the resignation of one's parliamentary seat.

Moldova

Lebed Dismissal Over Chechen War Criticism Denied

AU1901123695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/1/1995—A 14th Army official told BASA, invoking the position of the Russian military leadership, that he is sure of the fact that General Lebed will not be dismissed from his post for his criticism of Kremlin regarding the Chechen war. The inspection led by General Konstantin Kobets to begin on January 20 aims at verifying the 14th Army's compliance with training procedures and reorganization stipulated in the Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's directive of last August. Currently, a commission of the Russian Ministry of Defence is staying in Tiraspol. The commission inspects the army's financial standing.

Law on Legal Status of Foreigners Published

LD1801213395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—The law on the legal status of foreign citizens and individuals without citizenship in the Moldovan Republic was published in Moldova Wednesday [18 January].

In accordance with the document, foreign citizens and individuals without citizenship have the right to work, recreation, health care, pensions, benefits and housing. They are guaranteed freedom of speech, opinions and expression, and legal protection.

However, they may be deported from Moldova in the case of illegal entry and illegal residence in Moldova, or if their presence in the republic inflicts damage on national security, public order, or the physical and moral health of the population.

Foreign citizens and individuals without citizenship living in Moldova must undergo an AIDS check. The law does not say, however, when the test should be made—before entry, during entry or whilst staying in Moldova.

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Snegur: Poor To Be Provided No Social Security

LD1801222495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Mircea Snegur admitted in an Interfax interview that for reasons beyond the government's control social security could not be provided to the lower income groups of the population.

He said that education, health service and culture could not be properly financed.

Snegur emphasized the resolve of the republic's leaders to remedy the social policy. He hoped that the executive branch and trade unions would cooperate in resolving these issues.

Trade union leaders who held a conference in Kishinev Tuesday sharply criticized the social policy of the government, agreed that unemployment and the number of people living below the poverty line increased daily and called for emergency steps to improve the living standards.

According to the trade unions, the minimal wages of 18 lei covered a maximum of 10 percent of the minimal consumer budget. They called for at least doubling the minimal wages.

Government officials who attended the conference believe that the citizens would not have stable incomes before the economic crisis is overcome. Cabinet members are convinced that economically unjustified wage increases would trigger a new inflation spiral. Inflation ran at two to three percent a month lately.

Acute Grain Shortage Leads to Imports From U.S.

LD1901100295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 19 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] January 19 TASS—Moldavia [Moldova] is experiencing an acute shortage of grain. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food appealed to the republican leadership to urgently grant a nine-million-dollar credit for purchasing grain abroad.

Last summer was a dry one in the republic. Aside from drought, the republic lived through a flood and a hurricane. As a result of all that, the yield of grain crops was half as big as in the previous year.

In order to get enough grain, Moldavia is going to import it from the U.S. Last year Americans granted a long-term 10-million-dollar credit to Moldavia for that purpose.

Price Freedom 'Does Not Mean Price Anarchy'

MM1801155595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 95 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Vasiliy Lupu, chief of the Moldovan Finance Ministry Price Administration, by P. Potapov, place and date not given: "Who Dictates Prices"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Potapov] The government's program of activity for 1994-97 states that our policy is oriented toward the liberalization of prices for foods and nonfood goods, which must be accompanied by the necessary measures of targeted social support for the population. Has this provision of the program been fulfilled?

[Lupu] Practically, yes. For example, the "release" of prices for bread and bakery products has worked well on the whole, because people have begun using these products far more economically and strictly according to purpose. Incidentally, the state itself obtained no financial benefit from the "bread" liberalization. The government used to subsidize bread production to the tune of 84 million leus. This sum has now been given back to the population in full in the form of cash compensation connected to the price liberalization.

[Potapov] Let us talk about control. Is there control of the procedure for determining the main economic indicators used in the formation of prices and charges for goods and services? I have in mind first and foremost keeping account of production costs and calculating the cost price of commodities....

[Lupu] Such control is exercised all the time, of course. Nevertheless, whereas in 1993 we confiscated over 30,000 leus for the budget in the form of unlawful profit from unjustifiably overstated prices, this year the figure is around 2 million leus for such violations. I think that this is due to the fact that some enterprise leaders misunderstood price freedom for commodity producers. However, it does not mean price anarchy. People cannot be allowed to improve their financial situation simply by raising prices for their output—which is unfortunately still happening.

[Potapov] The republic has still not adopted the law "On Prices," which is designed, among other things, to instill order in price formation. Why not?

[Lupu] The Finance Ministry started work on that a long time ago. We have already sent the final version of the relevant draft law to the government. I expect parliament to approve it before the end of the year. Undoubtedly it will not be easy to adopt the law "On Prices" because regrettably the economic interests of consumers and producers do not coincide right now. The former, for example, want prices to be strictly controlled and broadly regulated by the state. The latter, however, want all prices to be deregulated. However, producers are also consumers, and vice versa. So I hope that ultimately we will find the optimum way to combine their interests.

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Kazakhstan

Defense Minister Visits Ural Defense Factories

LD1801174495 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakh Defense Minister Saghadat Nurmaghambetov paid a working visit to the town of Ural. He visited defense factories and familiarized himself with the state of affairs of the local defense industry. A meeting took place with the participation of the heads of local executive bodies and officers of the military commissariat. The defense minister answered a number of questions by participants and expressed his views on strengthening the economic and defense capability of the independent state.

Minister on Ignoring Ecological Problems

954F0909A Almaty EKSPRESS-K in Russian 13 Jan 95 p 3

[Interview with Svyatoslav Medvedev, minister of Ecology and Bioresources, by Yuriy Plotnikov; place and date not given: "A Society That Cannot Find Funds for Ecology Risks Ending Up Without an Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *"If we continue to ignore ecological problems a catastrophe awaits us in the near future," thinks Svyatoslav Medvedev, Kazakhstan's minister of ecology and bioresources.*

[Plotnikov] Svyatoslav Aleksandrovich, you recently delivered a paper entitled "The Ecological Situation in Kazakhstan and Priority Directions in the Activity of the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources" at a joint session of a number of committees of the republic Supreme Council. The statement was passionate, bitter, and filled with pain—and that was not just my impression. But, strangely, from the nature and subject matter of the questions from certain deputies, which were clearly impolite and even provocatory in nature, one got the feeling that there, among the higher-ups, they not only do not share your concern and alarm but they are not even filled with any special desire to help your department which, as we know, is experiencing a real disaster.

[Medvedev] Your impressions do not deceive you. The Ministry of Finance has completely cut off financing for ecological programs. Of the amount that was planned by the Supreme Council for this year we received...about 40 percent. Certain subdivisions such as, for example, Kazglavzhivokhrana, have received only 23 percent of the necessary funds. All the time they tell us: The budget is empty, there is no money...but, excuse me, that is complete nonsense. After all, we have not reduced the production and sales of natural resources, and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of rare and nonferrous metals and many other things are being exported. Just 3 percent of the budget revenues from the exploitation of these resources would be sufficient to solve many of our painful problems. You watch: The construction of purification installations and biological purification stations in cities of the republic has been completely halted. And industrial discharges into the water and unsupervised territories have not decreased and have even increased in certain places. At large enterprises, especially of the nonferrous metal industry, toxic substances are discharged into so- called "tailings dumps." This includes up to 60 percent of the harmful production wastes! The dams that hold them are not monitored and if at least a minimum of funds are not allotted for reinforcing them, all this mass could break out and disaster would be inevitable. And there are more and more hotbeds of danger like this—at enterprises in Semipalatinsk, Kostanay, Uralsk, Zhambyl, Shymkent, Kzyl-Orda, Atyrau....

And radiation ecology? Only 20 percent of our needs have been financed! What do we want to do, turn the country into a nuclear dump? We tell them that the trees are the lungs of the planet and for three years we have not been able to protect them from destruction and extinction. They do not give us money even for ordinary power saws, not to mention helicopters, which are extremely necessary for fighting fires and observation to prevent them! I will not even speak of fire trucks.

The economy and ecology are inseparable, like Siamese twins. And until the politicians, deputies, and legislators understand this, we will have the Damoclean sword of catastrophe hanging over our heads. I do not want to confuse anyone, but this will be more terrible than any earthquake.

[Plotnikov] Excuse me, but does the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources exist just for decoration?

[Medvedev] Neither under Tereshchenko nor now has protection of natural resources—the country's main wealth—been a priority. What do we have today? The program for efficient utilization of nature has actually been cut. The fund for protection of nature has been included in the budget, and they take from it money for paying pensions, stipends, and grants. It has reached the point of being ridiculous: Mr. Krasnoselskiy from the Ministry of Economics is seriously suggesting that we take out credit for the 1.7 million tenge necessary for building a storage facility for radioactive wastes! Allow me to ask where we will get the money to repay this credit, which is being offered to a nonbusiness state structure?! After all, our ministry's functions are primarily superdepartmental and state control.

[Plotnikov] Do the people in the power structures not understand such a simple thing?

[Medvedev] Just imagine—they do not. Most of the departments conduct their own control. In the Supreme Council there are also many controllers—the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on the Land...we raised this question with the first deputy prime minister,

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Mr. Isingarin. The matter of control should be concentrated in one place and this should be included in the laws. But it turns out like the fable of the swan, the crab, and the pike. Why do we not take advantage of the experience of the United States or Japan, for example? There the state ecological council is headed, in the first case, by the vice president, and in the second, by the deputy prime minister. We have made such a suggestion. Then I as minister could successfully solve all problems in the position of deputy chairman of this council with the chiefs of the administrations on whose territories the facilities suffering disaster are located. But what happens today? I develop a document, I coordinate it with all the ministers, and then the Ministry of Finance says: "There is no money!" And you do not have the right to go to the prime minister with such an answer. And is this the state approach to the matter?

[Plotnikov] Svyatoslav Aleksandrovich, if your ministry does not exist just for decoration I cannot understand why the authorities do not want to understand that during a period of transition to a market economy you could begin to use levers that have saved nature in developed countries. After all, you have a program and plans.

[Medvedev] I do not want to say that the situation is hopeless. During these three years there has been positive progress in understanding the situation that has developed in Kazakhstan's ecology. We have thoroughly studied various kinds of pollution—nuclear, chemical, the condition of the animal kingdom, our natural reserves...we have trained very good cadres. On instructions from the president we developed the National Program for Efficient Utilization of Nature and we submitted it to the Cabinet of Ministers. The foundation has been laid for a state ecological policy and a corresponding section has even been introduced for the first time in the government anticrisis program. A very serious program entitled "The Forests of Kazakhstan" has also been submitted to the government. The essence of the more than 50 normative documents developed by our specialists can be reduced to two main principles. First: Anyone who pollutes nature must pay a fine. Second: Every economic entity must pay for the utilization of nature.

We proclaimed these principles at the world ecology conference in Rio de Janeiro and they were registered in the new law "On Protection of the Environment in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and other legislative acts. I could only wish that the policy of the Supreme Council and the Cabinet of Ministers were more coordinated and balanced. More responsible.

[Plotnikov] Clarify please the story of the saker falcons. Judging from everything, somebody wants very much to gain from the fact that your ministry with the founding of the Kazakhstan-Saudi Ecological Fund is trying to take control over the hunting of rare species of wild birds. Am I right?

[Medvedev] To be truthful, it is indeed to somebody's advantage to represent the minister of ecology, who is called upon to protect the flora and fauna, as some kind of heartless and greedy monster who is squandering national wealth. When the Cabinet of Ministers granted permission to register the fund last year it took into account not only the high position of the Saudi prince Mr. Mokhammed, but also his true desire to help us in the matter of the protection of nature. Cross your heart and tell me that with our general need, could the $2 million that are being invested in this international ecology fund be superfluous? Or the dozens of UAZ vehicles with added equipment for hunters and inspectors, who even on the preserves go practically unarmed against the poachers who are equipped with foreign cars and armed to the teeth? What is being done? As an exception with a government license the prince was given the right to hunt wild birds and a hullabaloo breaks out in the press: Minister Medvedev is contributing to hunting and exportation of a disappearing species of bird, and so forth. But that is a lie! Medvedev never gave anyone permission to hunt and certainly not to take saker falcons out of the country.

And here is something else that needs to be discussed: In our republic over seven to eight years as a result of measures for protection of nature, populations of 500 species of wild birds have been protected and are developing, and among them is the falcon—a species that is not disappearing but is rare. In the sense that only one-fifth of these birds nest in our regions and four-fifths of them are migratory. It is probably very convenient for someone to represent the situation as predatory hunting of saker falcons by mafia structures as a result of the activity of our business partners from Saudi Arabia.

[Plotnikov] In fact it is rather difficult to imagine in the role of a poacher a representative of a monarchic dynasty who has $80 billion in his bank deposits...particularly when it is emphasized in all ways that a saker falcon in the West costs up to $80,000.

[Medvedev] In order to avoid misunderstandings I want to state that references to the closing of the International Ecology Fund are unfounded. Taking into account certain adjustments, it was just re- registered on 3 November of this year as the International Philanthropic Kazakhstan-Saudi Arabia Ecology Fund (KazSAEF). Its main goals are still to finance joint fundamental and applied research and scientific and technical developments for restoring the ecological balance and efficiently utilizing the republic's resources as well as philanthropy.

[Plotnikov] So the protection of rare birds will be under reliable supervision.

[Medvedev] Undoubtedly, and we are counting on support from the public and the journalists. For our own forces are not sufficient and this year they have been cut by more than 50 inspectors because of a lack of funds.

[Plotnikov] And the last question, Svyatoslav Aleksandrovich. Has the question of the exportation of 600

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kilograms of uranium been coordinated with your ministry? After all, you are responsible for radiation safety in the country....

[Medvedev] No. I was not informed of this.

Galenko Views Climate in Parliament

954F0911A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 2, 13 Jan 95 p 7

[Interview with Valeriy Galenko by Viktor Verk; place and date not given: "Valeriy Galenko: The Present Parliament Does Not Reflect the Public Mood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Verk] Valeriy Pavlovich, why did you undertake the preparation of a draft law on a referendum at this time? What is this, an effort to make political points, or a realization that "delay may mean death?"

[Galenko] I cannot say that I am not concerned with the formation of a positive political image; after all, after being elected a deputy, politics became my profession. But this is not the main thing. After the rating vote of 15 December on questions of private ownership of land, official bilingualism, and the character of the state, it became clear: The present parliament, most likely, will not be so bold as to resolve these questions. But the situation is such that they will have to be answered in any case. And, moreover, much sooner than many of my colleagues imagine. Today, against the background of a breakdown in production and the continuing drop in the standard of living of a majority of the population, discussions on "inviolable social stability" in Kazakhstan becomes not only meaningless, but downright dangerous. In my hometown of Pavlodar (incidentally, relatively prosperous against the background of other regions), the oppressive sensation of some kind of...irreparableness, or something, does not leave me. It has reached the point where the personnel of the local TETs [heat and electric power station] have started to drink on the job. And this is under conditions of continuous production, and the slightest disruption of its complicated technology threatens an irreparable catastrophe!

[Verk] You are talking about things that, unfortunately, no longer amaze anyone. But this is the real economic situation. How can the Law on the Referendum help here?

[Galenko] When it is said that, for example, the migration of the non—Kazakh population is conditioned only by reasons of economic order, this is not quite so. It is more likely completely not so. At least the results of the poll conducted among those departing for Russia from the Rights Defender Group of the Almaty organization of the Harmony movement convince one of this. They have already been published in KARAVAN. Nonetheless, I will mention: 81 percent of those polled named difficulties in educating children as the reason for leaving, and 97.5 percent were prepared to remain, in the event of the adoption of a constitutional amendment concerning state bilingualism. But, after all, as might be guessed, it is not the worst specialists who are departing. As parliament refused to even discuss this and other amendments, only one means is left to try to save the situation—to turn these questions over to the control of the people. That is, there is no alternative to a referendum.

[Verk] Your opponents frequently refer to the high cost of this measure. They say, today, given our acute budget deficit, to conduct a referendum is an obvious excess...

[Galenko] I did not particularly calculate the expenditures necessary for the conduct of a referendum. But, after all, we decided on early elections to parliament, which "ate up" by no means less resources. In this case, the procedure becomes cheaper. After all, it is not necessary for the conduct of a referendum to organize a preelection campaign that would be financed from the budget. In addition, the already prepared system of electoral precincts is preserved at all levels. Moreover, I understand very well how difficult it is for the state today to make ends meet; nevertheless, I am ready to accept even new early elections, if they will be held. As for the referendum, it will make it possible, in my opinion, to answer the main question of the moment: **What kind of a state are we building, and whose state?** If it is multinational, the same for all Kazakhs, then the referendum can and should become the first step in the signing of a treaty on interethnic accord in the country. (Incidentally, the draft of such a treaty was proposed by the board of Harmony, about which KARAVAN wrote last year.) But if ethnic priorities are to be placed as the foundation of statehood, Kazakhstan will be unable in the near future to avoid serious problems, which are clearly visible in the Tajik example.

[Verk] After voting against the consideration of amendments to the Constitution, parliament unequivocally demonstrated to the public what priorities it intended to follow. Now, many have begun to talk about the fact that the nationally elected parliament is an exact copy of the public. Are you prepared to agree with such a claim?

[Galenko] I am prepared to agree only with the fact that parliament should reflect public interests, being, in essence, the collective instrument of democracy; that is, the sovereignty of the people. But, unfortunately, what is desired is very far from reality. And the results of the rating voting showed this very graphically. After analyzing the list of names of those who voted, it is not difficult to note: The percentage of opponents to a consideration of amendments to the Constitution differs in the northern and southern regions very insignificantly. This is at a time when the polling of the population (conducted, in particular, by KARAVAN sociologists) shows: The number of supporters of private land ownership and official bilingualism in the north substantially exceeds this same indicator in the south. On the other hand, (again according to the data of your sociologists) more than 80 percent of the Kazakhs who were

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polled throughout the republic support the introduction of the institution of private ownership of land. But you could never say this according to the results of the parliamentary voting.

[Verk] Following the logic of these arguments, it is hardly likely that parliament will support your draft law. What will you do further?

[Galenko] Of course, I am far from convinced that the Supreme Council will give a "green light" to this initiative. But, at least, at the pre-New Year meeting of the Progress deputy group (of which I am a member), it was decided to develop such a draft. Which, in the final analysis, I did. I am convinced that I am acting correctly. After all, the attitude toward this draft of both my legislative colleagues and representatives of the executive structures can become a kind of litmus paper that enables the public to get an idea about whether it really has that authority that it deserves.

And then, the old truth should not be forgotten—the art of the possible. Having such a powerful lever of influence as the right to legislative initiative, and such a splendid tribunal as parliament, it would be a sin not to use it. That which does not find support today, could be listened to tomorrow.

Kyrgyzstan

First Deputy Prime Minister Reportedly Replaced

LD1801180295 Bishkek KYRGYZ RUKHU in Kyrgyz 13 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] According to unconfirmed reports, A. Tagayev, head of administration in Dzhalal-abad Region, is to fill the post of First Deputy Prime Minister Almanbet Matubraimov. It has become known that Matubraimov has left the White House because he disagreed with the president's policies.

Matubraimov used to run between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan like a fireman, and within the republic he was an errand boy who worked tirelessly on payment problems and did the menial work. Governor Tagayev will now apparently make regular trips to Uzbekistan to ask [Uzbek President] Islam [Karimov] for gas. For the moment, Deputy Prime Minister Osmonakun Ibraimov is carrying out this task.

Controversy on Appointment of Osh Region Head

LD1801192795 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 14 Jan 95 p 4

[From the "V KONTSE NEDELI' supplement]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Statement by the press service of the Osh regional administration.

The appointment of Dzhanysh Rustanbekov to the post of the head of Osh regional administration has been received by the public of the state and Osh region with great understanding. The population firmly supports our head of regional administration. His first meetings with groups of workers and with leaders of various ranks are evidence of this.

Much of the media have warmly noted Rustanbekov's activities in responsible posts. The press service of the regional administration constantly informs the public that the head of the region is currently working tirelessly in order to tackle many problems in the economy and the social sphere.

However, the views of some people, who are of a different opinion, have been reflected in certain newspapers. What has especially staggered us, the inhabitants of Osh, is the stance of the republic's Deputy Prime Minister Osmon Ibraimov. If SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA has not distorted his words, then he has encroached on the constitutional rights of the president himself. Ibraimov's ambitious remarks are aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region, and are redolent of narrow-mindedness. It is safe to say that the deputy prime minister has little chance of finding anyone in the republic who holds the same views on Rustanbekov's appointment as head of the Osh regional administration. We want our country to be strong and indivisible. We will work enthusiastically for the sake of our people's future, without dissipating our strength in useless discussions.

By the way...

In the last issue of V KONTSE NEDELI [7 January 1995], we published an interview entitled "I am ready to mount the scaffold for my beliefs." Deputy Prime Minister Ibraimov gave this interview to our correspondent at the request of the editorial staff. But the correspondent thought it advisable to sign his pseudonym there (by the way, every correspondent has several pseudonyms). Therefore, any false interpretations of his name are completely inappropriate. This is a correct decision.

In Kara-Kulzhinskiy district a meeting was held by a group for preserving accord, in which 450 people took part. The meeting adopted the following appeal:

"We think the president made the right choice when he appointed Dzhanysh Rustanbekov head of Osh regional administration. The president has the inalienable constitutional right to make such an appointment, which cannot be questioned by anyone.

"We wholeheartedly support the president of the Kyrgyz Republic and the policy he is pursuing. In the conditions in which our people live today and in the conditions of the economic crisis a reshuffle of the leadership can stop any pernicious divisions into clans and tribes.

"In SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA, Osmon Ibraimov, deputy head of the government, stated that Rustanbekov's appointment was a step in the wrong direction. He said telephone calls were being made in favor of this view. It became clear at our meeting, in which 450

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people took part, that there were no such calls from Kara-Kulzhinskiy district. The participants in the meeting expressed their belief that Rustanbekov would be a competent head of the region and make every effort to raise the living standards of people and preserve tranquillity and stability." [passage omitted]

Agrarian Labor Party Presents Election Manifesto

LD1801175895 Bishkek TRIBUNA NARODA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Election platform of the Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan [for 5 February election to Supreme Council].

The Agrarian Labor Party wants the worthiest representatives of the people of Kyrgyzstan to become members of the new Supreme Council, people whose concern for society is expressed in practical rather than rhetorical terms, people who are ready to help society out of its crisis through personal involvement and active work.

The Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan considers that the Kyrgyz village will remain ruined and poor as long as violations and outrages continue to be committed against the people who work on the land, and against the land itself. No one will feed the republic except its peasants. But normal human conditions must be created for them.

The Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan declares its firm resolve to defend the political and economic interests of peasants and all workers in the agro-industrial sector by parliamentary means.

The Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan regards the following as its priorities:

—Achieving equality of economic conditions for all forms and structures of economic management, and honest competition between the state and private sectors;

—Spiritual revival of the village and the peasant family; making state policy include care for all who live and work in the villages and who work in the processing industries, care for their needs, health, well-being and equality in society; restoration of the former authority and respect enjoyed by the agricultural intelligentsia—the teachers and specialists—and genuine concern for their lives;

—Provision of parity of prices for agricultural products and elimination of the state's discriminatory policy against the agro- industrial sector;

—Prevention of arbitrary reorganizations in the agro-industrial sector, and participation of the Agrarian Labor Party in preparing and discussing legislative acts and important state decisions on agricultural issues;

—Guaranteeing agricultural producers and workers in the processing industries priority rights to purchase controlling packages of shares in the process of privatizing state agricultural, vehicle servicing and processing enterprises, as well as the right to transfer or sell the controlling package of shares in processing enterprises to agricultural producers;

—Establishing direct relationships between the producers, the workers who process agricultural raw materials and the sellers of finished products without any intermediators or parasitic structures.

The ultimate aim of the Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan is to raise Kyrgyzstan's agricultural production to a level, which will allow the republic to become self-sufficient in food and an equal partner in the world food market.

As it enters the election campaign the Agrarian Labor Party of Kyrgyzstan is ready to seek representation in the new parliament by legal means.

Dear compatriots, citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic! If you vote for the Agrarian Labor Party you will vote for the revival of the Kyrgyz village and for free labor on a free land!

Tajikistan

CIS Consultative Coordination Representative Announced

LD1801175295 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Under an edict by President Emomali Rakhmanov of the Republic of Tajikistan, Rustam Qurbonovich Mirzoyev has been appointed Tajikistan's permanent representative at the CIS Consultative Coordination Committee.

Edict Establishing Presidential Guard

LD1801220695 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The edict by the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on establishing the presidential guard of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In accordance with Article 69 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, I decree that:

(1) The presidential guard of the Republic of Tajikistan will be established with 1,500 members.

(2) The personnel of the military 3571st unit of the department of the internal forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, with their weaponry and material and technical equipment will be given to the presidential guard. This is to be achieved by

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reducing the personnel of the internal forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

(3) The presidential guard of the Republic of Tajikistan will be directly subordinate to the president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

(4) Colonel Ghafor Rahmonovich Mirzoyev will be appointed the commander of the presidential guard of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Dushanbe Approves 1995 Budget

LD1801210595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent Negmat Ochilov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, 18 January—Tajikistan's draft state budget for 1995 was approved today at a meeting of the Presidium of the country's government. The revenue section amounts to R1,560bn [billion]. Expenditure considerably exceeds revenue and there is a proposed budget deficit of R456bn.

Jamshed Karimov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, said that Tajikistan had not yet been promised any foreign credits. Therefore, the government was undertaking specific measures to stablize the national economy and these will help to build up the country's foreign currency funds.

Work is now being completed in Tajikistan on drawing up a complex of sub-legislative documents for putting the national currency into circulation. Because of the absence of Russian banknotes people have not received their wages for six or seven months. Therefore, the republic is laying great hopes in its own currency which it is hoped will stabilize monetary circulation and stimulate the expansion of production and provision of various services to the population.

Opposition Said Planning New Offensives Shortly

LD1801191595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe January 18 TASS—Militants of the Tajik opposition, who are quartered in the borderline Afghan province of Badakhshan, intend to do a series of provocations against Russian and Tajik border-guards within next few days at a stretch of the Tajik-Afghan frontier protected by the Kalamkhum border-guard force, a well-informed military source told ITAR-TASS in Dushanbe.

The source described situation along the whole length of the border as rather uneasy: In the past 48 hours, Russian border-guards frustrated six attempts of up to 70 Tajik militants to violate the interstate border. More than half of them were reportedly killed.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov in Ankara for Pipeline Talks

MM1701144795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 95 p 3

[Unattributed report under the general heading "In Brief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference has opened in Ankara to discuss a $2 billion project to build a gas pipeline from Turkmenia to Europe via Turkey and Iran. During the conference Turkmen President Niyazov will be meeting with representatives of more than 30 companies and banks with an interest in the project.

Parliament Speaker Meets Iranian Ambassador

LD1801224295 Tehran IRNA in English 1958 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan. 18, IRNA—Turkmenistan's parliamentary speaker Sakhat Myradov in a meeting in Ashgabat today with Iranian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Gholam Reza Baqeri, attached great importance to the expanding relations among the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Referring to the need for expanding cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral countries, Myradov also called for parliamentary cooperation among the parliaments of the countries.

In the meeting, the two sides exchanged their views on Iran- Turkmenistan bilateral relations as well as the related issues of the Caspian Sea.

The two sides also expressed the need for optimal use of the Caspian Sea's resources and safeguarding its environment.

Referring to some effective steps taken by the Caspian Sea littoral states such as establishing the organization for Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation, Myradov underlined the importance and role of the countries' parliaments in expanding bilateral as well as multilateral relations among the littoral countries.

Baqeri referred to the expanding relations between Iran and Turkmenistan and called for establishment of parliamentary friendship groups between the two countries which was accepted by the Turkmen parliamentary speaker.

New Measures Provided To Help Private Businesses

LD1701134395 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1116 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of preparing the organizational, economic, and legal foundations for

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developing enterprise, President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan signed a resolution regulating support and future further development for private entrepreneurs.

Commenting on the resolution, Akmurad Baydzhayev, head of the administration for supporting enterprise, noted that it reflects the decisions made at Saparmurad Turkmenbashy's September meeting with entrepreneurs, at which topical matters of interaction between the government and the rising class of property owners were raised.

The measures designed to support private structures include the following:

—Legislation to underpin enterprise;

—Elimination of the diktat of the state;

—The allocation of credit and additional land;

—Establishment of a simplified procedure for registering persons involved in enterprise;

—Developing the systems of information provision and staffing for private business.

Under the clause which deals with credit procedures, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Turkmenistan must allocate up to one percent of budget expenditure to fund private projects in the priority areas for enterprise; 190 million manats have already been allocated for the first quarter of 1995.

The priority areas of entrepreneurship are:

—The production, processing and storage of agricultural output;

—The production of consumer goods, construction materials, spare parts for domestic equipment and motor vehicles, and the raw materials for medicines;

—The construction of buildings to be used for housing social and manufacturing purposes.

It should be particularly noted that when credit is being distributed, preference will be given to production based on the use of local resources and of waste from industrial and agricultural production.

Preferential credits will be granted to legal persons only if an economic study and business plan are supplied. Credit will be granted via the commercial banking system on condition that guarantees are furnished, that the credit is repaid, that the credit term is defined, and that the credit is used for a specific purpose. Three years is the maximum term for which credit may be granted.

Uzbekistan

List of New Supreme Council Deputies

LD1701225395 Tashkent KHALQ SOZI in Uzbek 14 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text]

Resolution by the Central Election Commission for Elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Registration of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In accordance with Articles 11, 43, and 46 of the Law on Elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission resolves that on the basis of the protocol documents submitted by constituency election commissions on the repeat elections held on 8 January, the following candidates, nominated earlier as Supreme Council deputies by political parties and representative bodies of authority: [sentence as published]

Key to table:

- i = Number
- ii = Candidate's Name
- iii = Date of Birth
- iv = Party Membership
- v = Current Post
- vi = Place of Residence
- vii = Number and Name of Constituency

[i]	[ii]	[iii]	[iv]	[v]	[vi]	[vii]
1.	Khotam Mahkamovich Abduraimov	1950	PDPU	First deputy mayor of Tashkent	Tashkent	11-Chu-qursoy
2.	Rahimjon Karimovich Abidov	1955	PDPU	Director of Ozturkakkummash district plant	Bukinskiy	167-Buka
3.	Mahmud Akhadov	1939	non-party	Head of unit of medical association No. 1	Namangan	88-Sardoba
4.	Musulmonqul Shayqolovich Bayeldiyev	1944	PDPU	Manager of Sherbodsovshozsuv Construction Company	Sherabadskiy district	146-Oltinsoy
5.	Khalimboy	1942	non-party	Deputy rector of Tashkent State Law Institute	Tashkent	173-Quyichirchiq
6.	Toshpolat Lepesovich Bobojonov	1935	PDPU	General director of Uzbekgeofizika production association	Kibrayskiy district	171-Salor
7.	Ulughbek Khudoyberdiyevich Doniyorov	1956	non-party	First deputy party prosecutor of Samarkand Region	Samarkand	117-Oqdaryo

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[i]	[ii]	[iii]	[iv]	[v]	[vi]	[vii] (Continued)
8.	Hulkar Bahodirovich Jamolov	1930	PDPU	Chairman of Council of Uzbek Trade Union Federation	Tashkent	55-Toqi-machiliq
9.	Ne'matullo Ibrohimov	1945	HPP	Rector of Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies	Tashkent	3-Akmal-Ikromov
10.	Karim Sohadillayevich Izzatillayev	1945	PDPU	Chairman of "Namangan" collective farm	Zadarinskiy district	89-Zadaryo
11.	Asqar Ikromov	1940	PDPU	Director of Namangan construction enterprise	Namangan	85-Dostlik
12.	Haydar Qoshshayevich Imomov	1951	PDPU	Chairman of Oqchashma joint-stock company	Peshkunskiy district	61-Peshku
13.	Musojon Ismoilov	1951	non-party	Chairman of Kuva furniture joint-stock company	Kuvinskiy district	193-Kuva
14.	Nuriddinjon Moydinkhonovich Ismoilov	1959	PDPU	Head of legal department of Namangan Region administration	Uychinskiy district	96-Uychi
15.	Tolqin Ismoilov	1946	PDPU	General director of Ferghana Textile Factory	Ferghana	183-Abdulla-Qodiriy
16.	Anvar Ziyoyevich Yoldoshev	1946	HPP	Chairman of Homeland Progress Party	Tashkent	164-Yangi-bozor
17.	Shukurulla Ubaydullayevich Yoldoshev	1935	PDPU	Vice-president of Agricultural Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Tashkent	176-Gulbahor
18.	Ortiq Mahmudovich Mansurov	1936	PDPU	General director of Uzkommunalmashkomplekt enterprise	Tashkent	1-Sanoat
19.	Mikhail Zinovyevich Martyanov	1936	PDPU	Director of locomotive repair production association	Tashkent	9-Mirobod
20.	Shonazar Kochimovich Matnazarov	1956	HPP	Head of directorate for logistic supplies of Koshkupyrskiy district	Koshkupyr village	211-Qoshkopir
21.	Mirmukhsin Mirfayziyevich Mirkhamzayev	1947	PDPU	Head of Ferghana section of state joint-stock railway company Uzbekistan Railways	Kokand	181-Marghilon
22.	Tojiddin Ne'matullayevich Nazarov	1946	PDPU	Chairman of "Ghoyiibov" collective farm	Bulakbashinskiy district	43-Bulakshi
23.	Mukhtorjon Qurbonovich Otaboyev	1953	PDPU	First secretary of Shakhrikhanskiy district council of PDPU	Shakhrikhanskiy district	39-Yuqori Shakhrikhan
24.	Akbarkhoja Komilovich	1931	PDPU	First deputy chairman of national corporation Uzbekneftegaz	Tashkent	91-Toshbuloq
25.	Azimboy Sadullayev	1947	HPP	Rector of Urgench State University	Urgench	207-Abdulghozi-Bahodirkhon
26.	Georgiy Khadzimurzayevich Sidakov	1927	PDPU	General director of Vostok production association	Yangiabad	152-Konchi
27.	Mamirjon Sobirov	1946	PDPU	Chairman of the board of Furkat cooperatives union	Furkatskiy district	205-Furkat
28.	Sodiqjon Turdiqulov	1953	PDPU	Head of Bukhara section of Uzbekistan Railways	Kagan	53-Bukhara
29.	Tal'at Subkhonqulovich Usmonov	1960	PDPU	First secretary of Samarkand city committee of youth union of Uzbekistan	Samarkand	108-Beruniy
30.	Tursunboy Fayzullayev	1944	HPP	Deputy rector of Namangan State University	Namangan	101-Chust
31.	Ghulomjon Zarpullayevich	1959	non-party	Chairman of Markaziy Osiyo Fozilov corporation	Syrdarinskiy district	134-Syrdarya

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[i]	[iii]	[iiii]	[iv]	[v]	[vi]	[vii] (Continued)
32.	Allambergan Khalimbetov	1945	PDPU	Chairman of Oq Oltin collective farm	Amudarinskiy district	242-Amudarya
33.	Zevar Zabiyevna Hasanova	1949	PDPU	Director of School No. 14 of Temiryulskiy district of Samarkand	Samarkand	107-Soghdiyona
34.	Holmurod Qilichev	1953	HPP	Chairman of Surkhandaria Region's trade-procurement department	Termezskiy district	138-Bandikhon
35.	Akmaljon Qosimov	1937	PDPU	Rector of Andizhan State University	Andizhan	38-Shahrikhon
36.	Botir Mahkamovich Qosimov	1947	PDPU	Director of joint transport enterprise Uzintrans	Tashkent	4-Bektemir
37.	Hasanboy Qurbonaliyev	1938	PDPU	Director of School No. 20	Uchkurganskiy district	98-Uchqurghon
38.	A'zamjon Hakimov	1940	PDPU	General director of Kokand construction materials production association	Kokand	179-Kokand

PDPU = People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
HPP = Homeland Progress Party

[Signed] Central Election Commission Chairman Q. Ahmedov; Central Election Commission Secretary A. Anorqulov

[Dated] Tashkent, 13 January 1995

Former Vice President Plans To Set Up New Party

LD1801212895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Former Vice President of Uzbekistan Shukurulla Mirsaidov unveiled plans to set up his own party, the Social Democratic Adolat (Justice) Party, in an interview with Interfax in Tashkent Wednesday [18 January].

Mirsaid, who resigned in protest at President Islam Karimov's policies three years ago, warned about the danger of authoritarian rule in Uzbekistan.

He explained the need for a new party by the lamentable state of the country's economic and political life and the absence of a public organization capable of advocating a social security policy.

Mirsaidov described Adolat as a parliamentary party forming constructive opposition to the government.

The party will hold as sacred the questions of the country's independence and sovereignty, he said.

Among party priorities Mirsaidov named democracy, freedom of the press, private enterprise, tax reform and greater involvement in public life by religious leaders.

He said the party had sufficient supporters to get registered and would lean upon the broadest sections of the population and different ethnic groups.

Food Rationing To Be Resumed in Feb

LD1801175095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Food rationing is to be resumed in Uzbekistan on February 1. One citizen is entitled to buy, at fixed prices, 800 grams of sugar, half a liter of vegetable oil, 2 kilograms of flour a month, and one piece of household soap every two months. The Tashkent Mayoralty told INTERFAX that food rationing, annulled on January 1, 1995, had to be resumed because the republic was "unprepared for free trade."

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Armenia

President Addresses Emergency Parliament Session

LD1801230895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) - Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said that "possible terrorist acts were prevented in Armenia" due to his decree of December 28, 1994 prohibiting the influential opposition Dashnaktsutyun Party.

Ter-Petrosyan declined to offer further comment on his decree or on a possible decision by the Armenian Supreme Court on the issue.

Ter-Petrosyan spoke at the emergency meeting of parliament on January 18.

Yerevan accused the Dashnaktsutyun party of having committed several political assassinations in Armenia and of engaging in the drug trade.

Ter-Petrosyan said the eight-month cease-fire in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was one of Armenia's main achievements last year.

He said that Nagorno-Karabakh had been recognized an equal party to the conflict in May 1994 primarily due to the efforts made by the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. The CSCE (OSCE from January 1, 1995) passed the decision to guarantee the security of the Nagorno-Karabakh population in December 1994. The CSCE also decided to deploy international peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

Ter-Petrosyan said the Budapest summit of the CSCE had united peacekeeping efforts of Russia and the OSCE.

Ter-Petrosyan said the social-economic situation in Armenia had begun to stabilize. The Armenian president said Armenia managed to receive support from international financial organizations for the reforms in the country. He said the national currency had been stabilized, the budget deficit reduced, inflation slowed down and foreign trade revitalized in 1994. He added that construction work continued in the zone of the 1988 earthquake and in the north of the country.

Ter-Petrosyan said that in January-November 1994 the national income was 103.8 percent compared to the same period in 1993, industrial output—104.8 percent and gross agricultural production—103.2 percent. Export and import have significantly increased.

Ter-Petrosyan said the average wage in the republic had risen 27 times. The inflation rate is 488 percent.

Ter-Petrosyan said he was not satisfied with privatization of state enterprises and uncompleted facilities last year in as the government had permitted the privatization of only 1185 out of the 2750 enterprises expected to be privatized in 1994.

Nagorno-Karabakh President Ends Visit to Yerevan

LD1801231095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan Jan 18 (INTERFAX)—Nagorno- Karabakh's President Robert Kocharyan has ended his first-ever visit to Armenia in his new capacity. He had a meeting with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, of Armenia. Kocharyan was elected President of Nagorno-Karabakh in December 1994.

The Armenian presidential press service reports that questions of mutual interest were discussed.

Independent observers in Yerevan do not rule out that President Ter—Petrosyan had promised Kocharyan that Armenia would continue to render economic and military assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the course of his three-day visit to Yerevan Kocharyan met with the Armenian parliamentary speaker Babken Ararktsyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan. Among other things they discussed the restoration of rural communities and forthcoming spring farm work in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Georgia

Russia Asked To Investigate Caucasian Peoples' Organization

LD1801205695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Otar Benidze, justice minister of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia, today addressed his Russian counterpart Valeniin Kovalev. In his address, Benidze says that the Caucasian Peoples' Confederation, which is calling itself a sociopolitical organization, is not registered with the Justice Ministry of the Russian Federation. Despite this, the confederation, by breaching international norms, the Russian Constitution, other commonly observed laws, and the Russo-Georgian agreement on friendship and cooperation, is—like before—interfering in the internal affairs of Georgia and is rendering every kind of assistance to the Abkhaz separatists. By doing this, the confederation is contributing to the collapse of the political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

In his address to Kovalev, the justice minister of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia appeals to the Russian side to investigate the activities of the leadership of the illegal organization in order to avoid the escalation of destabilization in the whole of the Transcaucasus region.

Abkhaz Leaders Condemn Russian's Statement

LD1801185195 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The CONTACT news agency reports that the Council of Ministers and the Supreme

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Council of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia issued a joint statement yesterday. It says:

Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of Russia's Federation Council responsible for nationality affairs, has recently requested the Russian Government to lift the ban on traffic across the border on the Psou River. In Abdulatipov's opinion, this would help in the supply of foodstuffs and petroleum products to Abkhazia. It must be noted that Abdulatipov refers in his statement to the Psou River as the border between Russia and Abkhazia.

In this connection, the Supreme Council of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia and the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia wish to remind Abdulatipov that the Psou River is a border between Russia and Georgia that has been recognized by the whole world, including the Russian leadership.

Abdulatipov supports his request by stating that a complex economic situation has developed in Abkhazia. He expresses concern about the condition of the 12,000 pensioners living in Abkhazia, without saying anything about the fate of the 300,000 people of various nationalities expelled from Abkhazia by the Abkhaz separatists. Abdulatipov must have forgotten that they are citizens of the Republic of Georgia, and the Georgian authorities are able to supply them with essential goods if, of course, the separatists do not prevent this.

Political Solution Sought To Abkhaz Conflict

LD1801184495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 18 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrei Petrovsky, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized at a cabinet meeting Tuesday [17 January] night that the Georgian leaders advocated political methods of resolving the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili told INTERFAX that the government of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, headquartered in Sukhumi before the city was taken by Abkhazian militias in September 1993, shared this view.

Most ministers are said to support Shevardnadze who took tough measures against radical nationalists who tried to mount a march on Abkhazia.

A group of armed men headed by former defense minister Tengiz Kitovani, the leader of the National Liberation Front, and former Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua headed for Zugdidi, Western Georgia, on January 13 for the purpose of attacking the Abkhazian separatists. This illegal force was disarmed last Saturday. Kitovani and numerous other NLF leaders were arrested. Over 350 men were brought into a Tbilisi detention center.

Sigua described these steps as a provocation designed to isolate true patriots from political life.

He said that the march had been peaceful and the people in the buses were chiefly unarmed refugees who did not believe that the authorities can help them to return to their homes.

Sigua said he did not know where the NLF members came by the hundreds of firearms. He believed that some refugees might have arms on them but this was their own idea, not that of the National Liberation Front Leadership.

Sigua who is also an MP said that he would press for an emergency session of parliament to debate illegal actions taken by the authorities against members of the National Liberation Front.

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Estonia

Luik Meets With French European Affairs Minister

WS1901120595 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 19, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik met with the French Minister of European Affairs, Alain Lamassoure, in Paris on Wednesday to discuss relations between Estonia and the European Union [EU] as well as Estonia's association talks with the EU.

Luik and Lamassoure discusssed ways how to quickly include the Baltics in the structural dialogue going on between countries of Eastern Europe and the EU, said Taavi Toom, head for the group for EU talks at the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

France, as the country holding the EU's current presidency, is going to fulfill the decisions adopted at last year's summit of the EU and bring to a conclusion this year the association talks between Baltics and EU, the Foreign Ministry press office in Tallinn quoted Lamassoure as saying.

Luik expressed hope that Estonia's association talks with the EU would be finished soon. "Estonia expects that only one, or at most two rounds of negotiations will be necessary after the second round of talks on Friday," Toom, a member of Luik's delegation for the visit, said. "Then the negotiations would be virtually finished."

Speaking about expansion of the EU, Lamassoure said each potential new member would be considered separately as to its economic achievement and on other indicators. He said Estonia was outstanding in its success of reform and could be sure to be among the first in the process of integration with Europe.

Luik and Lamassoure at the meeting also discussed issues related to the conference of the European stability pact, due in Paris on March 21. One of the topics dealt with on Wednesday was what agreements between Estonia and Russia were needed for signing the pact.

The same issue was addressed at Luik's separate meeting on Wednesday with the French Government's special representative to the European stability pact conference, Ambassador Cuvilliers, the Foreign Ministry press office said.

Luik and Lamassoure expressed concern over Russia's use of armed forces in resolving a political conflict in Chechnya.

The ministers also spoke about plans for expansion of NATO and the Western European Union. Both said special attention had to be paid to working out a joint European defense concept, in which also Estonia is invited to participate.

A dinner was given on Wednesday in honor of the Estonian foreign minister by the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, Bertrand Dufourcq. Luik met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe later in the day.

Earlier during the visit, Luik held a lecture before an audience of diplomats, researchers and journalists at the Institute for International Relations in Paris on Tuesday. Luik's visit to France is scheduled to officially end on Thursday.

Rumors of 'White Tights' Snipers Viewed

LD1801232395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Video report from Estonia by Ye. Sokolova—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The legend about Baltic women snipers killing Russian officers in cold blood was not born in Chechnya. It appeared much earlier in the Dniester region, however, the information about their nationality was always confused. Some said they were Lithuanians while others said they were Estonians. Viewed from Moscow, there is not much difference between them. When the Chechen crisis broke out, the rumors reappeared. Even a name was invented for them—"white tights."

Not only newspapers but officials, too, are claiming that they do exist. Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik regards this as a dangerous symptom. A particular country has been chosen for creating an image of an enemy used by local propaganda. It is very convenient: When you want to kick a dog, it is better to kick a small one, it is safer.

So far no evidence has been given as for the existence of the Estonian women mercenaries. Independent Western journalists have not heard anything about them. Where are these elusive snipers?

The Estonian Foreign Ministry has sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry with a request to provide the surnames of the Estonian citizens caught in Chechnya. Ten days have passed since but there has been no reply from Moscow.

As for the white tights, no shortage of them, or any other shortage, has been noticed in Tallinn.

Latvia

Law on Security Police Passed by Cabinet of Ministers

WS1901075595 Riga LABRIT in Latvian 29 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Rita Zvidra: "Government Passes Law on Security Police"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] At its last meeting this year, the Cabinet of Ministers passed the law on Security Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Latvian Republic. Minister of Internal Affairs Janis Adamsons explained at a press conference, held after the meeting, that the law on the Security Police has been passed by the government according to a decision to set legislative acts in order. The law defines the Security Police as a state security institution which conducts intelligence and operational activities, by means of predicting, investigating, disclosing, and preventing possible threats to state security. Naturally, the activities are to be carried out within the framework established by legislation, the minister added. The Security Police will be directly subject to the minister of internal affairs and will act as a part of the State Police department.

According to the above-mentioned law, the main tasks of the Security Police are to disclose and neutralize any danger jeopardizing the security of the state, to collect information on danger to the natural environment, and to protect state secrets. This division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will also conduct investigations on the activities of foreign organizations, enterprises and special services, located on the territory of Latvia, and carry out antiterrorist operations. It will also be responsible for the prevention of activities targeted at the abolition of the constitutional government by force.

Internal Affairs Minister Janis Adamsons refused to answer at the press conference questions regarding the structure of the Security Police. "I will not deny that from the very beginning I was generally against disclosing any details of the law on security police to the public at all. In my opinion, this is a confidential document," emphasized Adamsons.

Saeima Passes Bill on Status of Noncitizens

LD1901095795 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0800 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A regular plenary session of the Saeima is taking place today. Voting on the second reading of the draft bill on the status of those citizens of the former USSR who are neither Latvian citizens nor citizens of any other country was the first issue on the agenda. We remind you that at the previous plenary session, after repeated voting on this draft bill, there was no quorum in the chamber and the plenary session was adjourned.

Today, the Saeima Presidium received a proposal to postpone the consideration of the draft bill, but the majority of deputies did not support it. Therefore, voting took place and the draft bill was passed with 56 voting for, 15 against, and two abstaining. The plenary session continues.

Government Includes Latvian Airlines on Privatization List

WS1901075895 Riga DIENA in Latvian 29 Dec 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Toms Liepins: "'Latvian Airlines' Will Be Privatized in Three to Four Months"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 28 Dec — As Chairman of the "Latvian Airlines" Janis Dinevics told DIENA, the government has included the state joint stock company "Latvian Airlines" on a list of enterprises that have been selected for privatization. According to him, the process of privatization may last from three to four months.

Dinevics reported that there has been no agreement reached until now as to the method of privatization. However, in his opinion, the most suitable way of privatizing a joint stock company is to obtain capital. This means that 49 percent of the capital would be acquired, whereas the controlling portion (51 percent) would be in the hands of the state. According to Dinevics, this would provide free circulating capital, and would prevent getting involved with big foreign credits.

Also Aivars Bauers, chief of the State Property department in the Ministry of Transport presented his views to DIENA. "I was just informed about the decision of the government, which was adopted yesterday. In accordance with the law "On Privatization of State and Municipal Property," the joint stock company "Latvian Airways" has been conveyed to the disposition of the Privatization Agency for further privatization procedures. Based on the new privatization law, the method of privatization should be selected by the Privatization Agency. What will follow next, is no longer in the competence of the ministry".

At a 27 December government meeting, 92 enterprises were included on the privatization list, and passed over to the Privatization Agency. Among them was the joint stock company "Latvian Airlines."

In a telephone conversation, the General Director of the Privatization Agency Janis Naglis told DIENA that the privatization process of "Latvian Airlines" will begin soon.

"The day the Cabinet of Ministers announces in the columns of the 'LATVIJAS VESTNESIS' the decision to privatize the company, we shall take it under our control within about two weeks. Afterwards, the privatization will be announced publicly, with a term of two months for submitting an application. Only when we collect all the applications, will we be able to foresee what will happen next," said Naglis.

Lithuania

Officials Surprised by Latvia's Alternative NATO Plan

WS1901103295 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 18, BNS— Lithuanian defense and foreign affairs officials greeted

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with reservation the new NATO expansion initiative put forward by Latvia.

As reported, Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said on his return from a recent trip to the United States that NATO expansion, by giving priority to the Visegrad group over the Baltic states, may result in division of Europe into "new spheres of influence."

The Latvian official said he had proposed an alternative plan to U.S. officials—to admit one Visegrad and one Baltic country at a time, for example, the Czech Republic and Estonia, Poland and Lithuania, etc. In his opinion, the plan would be way to enhance regional security and to avoid new division of Europe.

Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius said he found out about the proposal from media reports. He noted that the Latvian initiative has not been coordinated with the two other Baltic states, at least on the level of defense ministers.

Linkevicius told BNS he welcomes any initiatives that could accelerate integration of the Baltic states into NATO. But an artificial creation of pairs does not seem to have anything in prospect, he added.

On the other hand, Linkevicius said he understands the Latvian minister's concern about the possible division of Europe into new spheres of influence. "We don't want to find ourselves near the front line or overboard. For us, it is important not to form new hotbeds of tension and to find ourselves in them," Linkevicius said.

The Lithuanian minister said Latvia's initiative does not necessarily have to be rejected, but its correspondence to the interests of NATO and its potential members must be discussed.

The Latvian initiative came as a total surprise, said Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, who is in charge of Lithuania's efforts to get integrated into NATO. Januska also pointed out that the proposed plan cannot be regarded as a common position of all three Baltic states.

Januska reaffirmed the aspiration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to join NATO along with other Central European countries. But if NATO decides that some nations deserve earlier membership, others should not be left in a vague situation and given certain guarantees. The Lithuanian official said the threat of Europe's division into spheres of influence would be avoided in such way.

If all Central European nations cannot be admitted at once, Januska said, the alliance should take individual decisions with respect to every country aspiring to NATO membership, but not "regional" decisions, such as concerning the Visegrad group or the Baltics.

Parliament Adopts Resolution on Chechnya, Security

LD1801222695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lithuanian parliament has adopted a resolution calling for a peaceful settlement of the Chechnya conflict and an effective strengthening of Lithuania's international security. Lithuanian lawmakers urged the government once again to appeal to international organizations to exert pressure on Russia for a peaceful solution of the crisis in Chechnya. The government should also expand political and technical cooperation with structures of the European Union and NATO with an aim of ensuring Lithuania's international security, the resolution says.

The parliament advised the government to strengthen protection of Lithuania's borders and also to support social organizations which deliver humanitarian to refugees in Chechnya [passage indistinct].

Gylys Stresses Importance of Russian Trade Agreement

LD1801231195 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A press conference by Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys took place today. Our correspondent Madona Luckaite reports:

[Luckaite] Lithuanian Ambassador in Russia Romualdas Kozyrovicius was presented today with a reply note of the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is stated in the note that the agreement between the Lithuanian and Russian governments on trade and economic relations, signed on 18 November 1993, comes into force today. The agreement consolidates the most favorable trade regime between the two states.

The importance of such favorable status to Lithuania was described by Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys as follows:

[Begin Gylys recording] It means a great deal. The present situation creates better export opportunities for our industrialists, businessmen, and agricultural workers. Trade with Russia constitutes an important part—about one third of our trade turnover consists of our trade with Russia. Thus trade—trading conditions with such an important partner—have improved. [end recording]

A note to the Russian Foreign Ministry was presented by Ambassador Romualdas Kozyrovicius. It is stated in the note that the Lithuanian Government was extending to Russia the order on carrying military and hazardous cargoes through our territory, established in the agreement of the same date on the transit of the Russian Armed Forces and military cargoes being withdrawn from Germany, till the end of this year, with the possibility of extending it for other one-year periods. As known, transit was not regulated in 1991, 1992, and 1993. Temporary documents to this effect have been in force for some time. [words indistinct] is changing from today when the Russian Foreign Ministry received the abovementioned note. Minister Povilas Gylys:

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[Begin Gylys recording] In the situation when the so-called German agreement on military transit through the territory of Lithuania ceased to exist and a certain vacuum was created, we have order now. Furthermore, we have order, have the rules, but do not have an agreement on military transit, about which the opposition parties had such strong feelings. I think this is not bad. [end recording]

After the press conference I asked ambassador Ceslovas Stankevicius to comment on both agreements. What did Lithuania win from Russia?

[Begin Stankevicius recording] Lithuania did not win anything today. The agreement with Russia was signed on 18 November 1993 and it would come into force and implemented if the other side conscientiously fulfilled its obligations in the agreement. But this did not happen for over a year. This can be regarded as Russia's constant pressure. Today's announcement that a special order of military transit to and from Kaliningrad through the territory of Lithuania is applied to Russia is somewhat illogical if it is taken into consideration the fact that Russia is currently crudely violating human rights. Thus it is illogical currently to create special conditions for the Russian Federation. But such a decision has been taken by a single party and, as Mr Gylys said, this has been a purely political decision. I see only the continuation of the factual situation, that is, the continuation of the practice used during the withdrawal of the Russian army from Germany in accordance with an agreement which has already ended. This agreement cannot be regarded as some rule because it was adapted only for the withdrawal of troops from Germany and not a single article in it is of a general nature. From the legal point of view, as it was stated here, the rules endorsed by the Lithuanian Government are in force. They are an open legal act. The exchange of the notes is not any legal act, it is only the continuation of the factual situation. [end recording]

Decision on Russian Military Transit Praised

WS1901124795 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 19, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said on Wednesday [18 January] that agreement to extend the validity of earlier rules with respect to Russian military transit through Lithuania was reached in a "search for the best decision."

At a press conference Wednesday, Gylys called the agreement a "serious event in the history of bilateral relations, in our region and in Europe." Both countries should be glad about the result, he said.

As reported, the Lithuanian Government has extended the validity of military transit regulations established by the Nov. 18, 1993 Lithuanian-Russian agreement on the transit of Russian troops withdrawing from Germany.

Gylys said a search for possible solutions continued over the past several days. "A normal negotiation process went on until Tuesday evening and we considered different decisions."

The minister said Lithuania based itself on the principles of national security and sought to resolve the military transit in a "civilized way, without causing tension in Lithuanian-Russian relations, in the region and in Europe." Gylys emphasized that such a position was strongly supported by member countries of the European Union.

The validity of regulations applied to Russian military transit until Jan. 1 has been extended until the end of this year. Gylys noted that the existing order was not criticized by any political forces and there have been no major disputes over it.

As regards Lithuania's security, the Lithuanian minister admitted that Russian military transit causes public concern. But, he added, good relations between countries are the main security guarantee.

"We usually accentuate the military aspect and do not accentuate political aspects, which are the main thing for security from a European point of view."

Oil Terminal Construction Corporation Approved

WS1901121095 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 19, BNS—The Lithuanian Government on Wednesday [18 January] gave the green light to the creation of a corporation to design, build and operate an oil terminal on the Lithuanian seashore.

The government obliged the corporation's founders to attract local and foreign investments, provided that the share of foreign capital in the future terminal does not exceed 49 percent.

The corporation, called Butinges Nafta, will have a stock capital of 10 million lits (USD 2.5 million). 87 percent of its shares will be owned by the Mazeikiai oil refinery. The state-owned company Birzai Nafta and the Klaipeda state oil enterprise will own 5 percent each. The Lithuanian Stock Innovation Bank and the self-government of the seaside resort of Palanga will have 2 and 1 percent, respectively.

Lithuania decided to create a corporation based on Lithuanian capital after attempts failed to make up an international corporation from foreign investors. The initiative had been under negotiation with foreign companies and banks for several months, but talks were halted last week after the Russian company Lucoil demanded controlling interest in the future terminal.

Mazeikiai Director General Bronislovas Vainora says the creation of a Lithuanian corporation cannot solve financial problems that delay the beginning of terminal construction.

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Initial construction costs are estimated at 10 million U.S. dollars. It is absolutely necessary to have the sum to begin work, Vainora told a news conference Wednesday. The whole terminal project will cost around 200 million U.S. dollars and will take about two years to complete. Nearly 4.5 million U.S. dollars have already been invested in designing the terminal.

Vainora said attempts should be made to negotiate Lucoil's participation in the Lithuanian terminal project with a smaller shareholding. The Mazeikiai director said he pins his hopes on a planned meeting between Lithuania and Russian prime ministers.

Potential foreign investors made it a condition that Lithuania sign at least a 10-year agreement on oil export through the Lithuanian terminal. The Lithuanian Government thinks Lucoil and Italy's oil giant Agip could be such partners because they are interested in oil export from Russia.

The West also wants Lithuania to own no less than 33 percent of the future terminal's capital, which is around 70 million U.S. dollars. The government plans to collect funds for the purpose by selling part of Mazeikiai shares for hard currency, issuing additional shares or by creating a national oil company and thus concentrating the capital of different oil enterprise in one place.

Radiation Source Detected at Railway Station

WS1901103095 Tallinn BNS in English 1759 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 18, BNS—A radioactive source of 80 microroentgens per hour has been detected at the railway station of the western Lithuanian town of Pagegiai, the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Ministry said Wednesday.

Ministry officials told BNS that the source is believed to be located under a pile of bricks, where the level of radioactivity is 4 times above normal. Radioactivity near the bricks was detected Wednesday by a civil defense officer on duty.

The incident is investigated by Environmental Protection Ministry officials.

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